

Society for the Protection
of Ancient Buildings

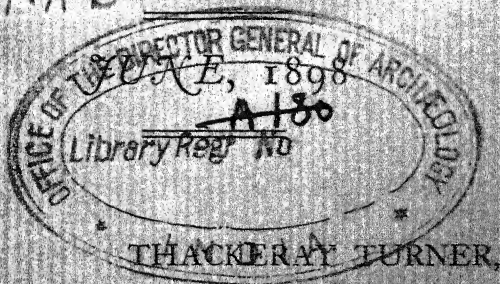
31774

The General Meeting of the Society ;
Twenty-First Annual Report of the
Committee ;

and Paper read by

H. E. Luxmoore, Esq., M.A.

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Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Greyfriars Church, Aberdeen.

As far back as the year 1885 this building was mentioned in the list of cases receiving the attention of the Society, and the subject has been before it on various occasions since.

The matter did not, however, come to an acute stage until the present year, when the authorities had to decide as to the fate of the building.

We are glad to be able to report that the efforts made locally and by the Society (many influential members strongly supporting it) have been successful, and the authorities have decided to preserve the building.

We can now only hope that it will be carefully repaired, and that the scheme for "restoration" proposed some time since, will be abandoned, as it would rob the building of a large part of its beauty and interest.

The Old Rectory, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

We give a view of this house, which is a building dating from the 16th century. It was probably built

by Richard Rawson, LL.B., who was Canon of Windsor, Archdeacon of Essex, and Rector of Beaconsfield from 1525 to 1543. His arms are carved on the spandrels of the stone fireplace in one of the first floor rooms.

The building, which is now disused, is a fine structure, and one which could easily be repaired and fitted for modern uses without much loss of interest.

The Society heard that the house was in danger, and arrangements were therefore made for it to be surveyed by two of its professional members.

A letter embodying their report was sent to the Rector, who very kindly promised to forward a copy of it to Magdalen College, Oxford, whose property it is.

The Rector is anxious that the house should be repaired and used for a curate's house and a church house combined, and in its report the Society has pointed out how the house could be arranged so as to provide the necessary accommodation without interfering with its ancient character.

The Committee hopes that Magdalen College will be able to see its way to agree to some such scheme, as in its opinion there could be no possible justification for the destruction of this valuable and beautiful ancient building.

Old Red Hall, Bourne, Lincolnshire.

In its last report the Committee was unable to state definitely what had been the result of its action in this case, but it is now glad to be able to say that the house

is to be preserved, the Directors of the Great Northern Railway having decided that, as the house was too large for the Stationmaster, a wall should be built dividing the house in two.

This can be done without loss to the building, and the Committee thinks that under the circumstances it would be unreasonable to oppose the arrangement. On the contrary, it is most grateful to the Directors for acceding to its request that the house should be preserved.

Many who read this note will remember that in our Report of 1892 we stated that we had been successful in saving this building from destruction, but the case shows one of the troubles which the Society has to encounter, *viz.*, that after making such efforts for the preservation of a building, it has still to keep a watchful eye upon it, for it may be threatened over and over again.

Bozent Church, Northants.

At the request of the Vicar, the Society arranged for one of its professional members to visit this building, who reported, among other things, that the roofs needed repair, that the lead should be recast, and an open drain formed round the building.

The Committee is glad to be able to say that it is intended to carry out the repairs recommended by the Society.

It will be seen that this is a case in which the help of the Society has been sought by those in authority

and in which its advice has been followed, and we need hardly add that the Society is always glad to receive applications for such help and advice, and to give it where it is at all possible.

Canterbury Cathedral.

We are glad to find that, as time goes on and more people see the recent works at Canterbury Cathedral, dissatisfaction increases.

We give the following letter, of course without its author's name, as an example of a feeling which seems to be on the increase.

April 25th, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I noticed the following paragraph in the *Family Churchman* of last week, viz., "The Secretary of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings states that irreparable harm has already been done to the interior of the building by the recent restorations of Canterbury Cathedral, under Dean Farrar."

Allow me to say I am very glad to find an expression of feeling on this point in print, for I was at the Cathedral last June and was simply astonished to find that the so-called restoration to which I had subscribed had been carried out in the spirit which influenced those concerned.

As regards the Chapter House, it seems hardly possible that an architect (Sir A. Blomfield) should have committed such an error in a scheme for artistic decoration which nearly converts the Chapter House into a music hall.

Again, the painful display of gilding in the nave, the pulpit canopy, and other work, strikes anyone of taste as being sadly out of harmony with the surroundings of the noble building itself.

Has any protest been made to the Dean and Chapter?

for I believe they are contemplating other work, such as a new bronze Communion rail, etc.

I will gladly become a subscriber to your Society, as I think its operations are good, and the present ideas of "restoration" stand sadly in need of some wholesome check.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

We think that it will also interest our readers if we give our reply, which was as follows :—

In re Canterbury Cathedral.

May 6th, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I had the honour of reading your letter of the 25th ult. to the Committee of this Society at its last meeting, and I was desired to thank you for the same, and to give you the following information respecting the Society's action in the matter of Canterbury Cathedral.

On the 17th April, 1896, the Society having received a report to the effect that it was proposed to spend a large sum of money upon the restoration of the Cloisters, Chapter House, and Crypt of the Cathedral, addressed a letter to the Dean of Canterbury, in which it asked him if he would kindly inform it what parts of the Cathedral were in need of structural repair, and in what manner it was proposed to meet such needs.

The Society further stated, that while it fully appreciated the liberality with which the appeal for assistance had been met, yet it could not but feel some uneasiness lest the funds subscribed should be spent rather in the reproduction of decorative features than in securing the stability of the structure, and it asked for authoritative information so that it might be in a position to inform its members that the works would be confined to such structural repairs as would insure the Cathedral

being handed down to posterity in the state in which we had received it, and that no conjectural restoration would be attempted.

In reply to this the Dean, in a letter dated April 18th, 1896, stated that he sympathised with the views of the Society, and that it might rest assured that *nothing* would be done contrary to the principles it advocates. He added that he wanted to save the building from the ravages of time, and asked if the Society would help.

The Society replied on the 24th April, 1896, that it could not give pecuniary aid, but offered to have the building surveyed by one or two of its professional members and to furnish a report such as it had done in the cases of Ely and Winchester Cathedrals at the request of the Deans.

On the same day the Dean replied declining this offer, as he had had two reports and did not need another.

The Society therefore, on the 15th May, 1896, asked the Dean for permission to examine the building before the work was begun, and to allow it to see the work again after some portion of the money had been expended, as it was anxious to form its own opinion as to how far it could assure the members of the Society that the work was being done in accordance with its principles.

The Dean did not reply to this letter, but in answering an article which appeared in the *Daily Chronicle*, of July 4th, 1896, in which it was asked that some detailed report of the scheme should be published, he said: "No step has been, or will be taken, which even the most ardent supporter of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings could disapprove."

The Society, thereupon, in a letter which appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* of July 11th, asked that as the Dean's words apparently gave the public an assurance of the Society's approval, he would publish a report stating what was to be done, and allow the Society to examine the building and state what, in its opinion, ought to be done.

The Society further wrote to the Dean, saying it was glad to see his letter, and the feelings expressed therein, and were it only a question of his own feelings and intentions it could not wish for anything more satisfactory than his explicit statements; but, unfortunately, many restorations undertaken with precisely similar feelings and intentions had nevertheless turned out most disastrous, and half the interest of the building involved has been swept away.

The Society also pointed out that having appealed to the nation for subscriptions, it surely was not unreasonable that he should be asked to take the public into his confidence as to the precise manner in which the funds were to be spent, and as he publicly referred to the Society as a standard by which his intentions could be measured, it might, without presumption, suggest itself as a medium of communication, and it therefore ventured to ask: (1) whether he would allow the Cathedral, or such parts of it as might be thought in need of more immediate repair, to be surveyed by some of the professional members of the Society, and (2) whether he would afford the Society detailed information as to the mode in which it was proposed to deal with such portions?

In replying to this letter, the Dean, on August 2nd, wrote that he had already stated many times the object of his appeal, and having consulted eminent architects, he declined further advice and needless interference.

Under these circumstances the Society could not see its way to again address the Dean, but it has endeavoured from time to time to find out what was being done, and the building has been visited by many of its members.

As a result of reports received from them, the Society addressed a letter which appeared in most of the London daily papers, on June 5th, 1897, in which it protested in the strongest manner against the work which has been done. As recently as April 16th, 1898, the Society, in supporting protests against the "restorations," which

had been made by correspondents in the *Morning Post*, stated that "it would be difficult to overstate the amount of harm which has been done."

You will therefore see that this Society has done its utmost to prevent the carrying out of these most destructive works to the Cathedral, but we are sorry to say with so little result.

The Committee is anxious to mention the matter in its Annual Report, which we are now preparing, and it desires me to say that it will be most grateful to you if you will kindly allow it to print your letter, with the omission of your name and address.

I may add that the Society believes there is a strong local feeling against the works which have been carried out.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

THACKERAY TURNER, *Secretary*.

Carisbrooke Church, Isle of Wight.

The following appeared in the *Standard* of September 28th, 1897:—

A correspondent writes:—"The Committee responsible for the carrying out of the work of erecting suitable memorials in the Isle of Wight to the late Prince Henry of Battenberg have received a communication from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings which will in all probability retard the work which the Committee have in hand. Shortly after the death of the late Prince Henry a Committee of leading residents in the Isle of Wight, including the Chairman of the County Council (General the Hon. Somerset J. G. Calthorpe) and the Deputy Governor of the Isle of Wight, was appointed to arrange for the carrying out of suitable memorials in or near the centre of the Island, the town of Newport. The memorials decided upon were the conversion of the ancient gatehouse and

portcullis chamber of Carisbrooke Castle into a museum for the reception of articles of interest connected with the castle and the Isle of Wight. The other memorial was an addition to Carisbrooke Church. Sir Charles Seely, formerly M.P. for West Nottingham, offered £1,000 towards the second memorial, providing that at Carisbrooke Church a chancel should be built on the site of the one formerly said to have existed at the church. The memorial at Carisbrooke Castle is almost completed, and has given great satisfaction to those who are responsible for the work, including the Princess Beatrice, who is the Lady Governor of the Isle of Wight. With regard to the memorial at Carisbrooke Church, the Committee of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has interposed, and the Secretary, Mr. Thackeray Turner, has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Battenberg Memorials Committee on the subject. The Committee express the hope that the rumour as to the destruction of the ancient chancel arch is unfounded, as, in their opinion, it would be an unjustifiable act of vandalism. Carisbrooke Church, they point out, is so well known, and was of so much interest to many people beyond the area of the Isle of Wight, that any interference with its ancient character and appearance could only be looked upon as a calamity, and, therefore, the Committee earnestly begged that the Memorials Committee would not give its consent to the destruction of the chancel arch, which was necessarily a record, and an interesting feature of the church. The Society had no other object in view than as its title indicated—the preservation of an ancient building. The memorial has not been so popular with the Island residents as that at Carisbrooke Castle. The action of the Society mentioned has caused considerable comment in the district, and it is quite probable that the Committee will be prevailed upon to adopt some other scheme."

The result of the opposition raised to the scheme ap-

pears from the following paragraph, which was published in several London journals about October 6th, 1897:—

“Sir Charles Seely, who offered £1,000 conditionally towards the rebuilding of the chancel of Carisbrooke Church, as part of the Isle of Wight memorial to the late Prince Henry of Battenberg, has announced that, owing to continued opposition from the Press, the scheme had better be abandoned. Princess Henry of Battenberg approves of the withdrawal of the scheme.”

Chippenham Church Bells, Cambs.

This Church recently had five ancient bells of considerable historic interest, but the Society learns with much regret that four of them have been recast. Unfortunately three were cracked and one had the canons broken off.

The Society made every effort to get the bells retained in the Church and to put new ones in their place, but it regrets to say that the authorities decided to destroy them for the sake of the value of their metal.

In the opinion of the Committee such bells, even if cracked and useless for the purpose of ringing, are much too valuable as examples of the ancient art of casting to be sacrificed for the sake of the metal in them. Apart from this, many such bells have inscriptions which are of historic interest, and in some cases of great beauty.

When custodians of ancient buildings which contain ancient, damaged, or cracked bells, consider it impossible to retain them in the building to which they

belong, the Society would urge that they should offer them to museums with a view to their preservation.

We believe that there are many institutions which would gladly give an amount equal to the value of their metal, and thus, without money loss to the custodians, the bells would be preserved for the instruction of the present and future generations.

Town Hall, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

A member of the Society, who was asked to contribute to the restoration of this building, called the Committee's attention to the case, and it was visited by one of our members.

It proved to be a three-storied rectangular building, standing in the irregular open space which occupies the centre of the charming old town of Chipping Campden, and built of the warm-coloured oolite stone of that district. It stands on ground which slopes from north to south, so that the street on one side is level with the basement, and on the other with the ground floor.

Originally the building was of fourteenth century date, and still has on the lower side two very fine buttresses of that period enriched with traceried panels. The upper side is more than a century later and has a number of late fifteenth century windows, but all are built up. The building had been altered and remodelled at various periods, and both the ends were rebuilt in the eighteenth century with characteristic classic treatment.

One of the most interesting features was a small cell

in the basement with large iron rings in the walls, and other evidences of its having been the ancient prison of the town.

In recent years several schemes have been prepared and plans made by architects, but lack of funds has prevented them from being carried out. Some of them would have resulted in a town hall to all intents new.

The present scheme is fortunately of a comparatively limited character, and the architect courteously sent the plans for the information of the Committee, and as a result of their correspondence, no great mischief will ensue, though it is to be regretted that the ancient prison will be effaced.

Conway Castle and Town Walls.

The remarkably perfect fortifications of the Castle and Town of Conway are well known, but the great interest of the Castle and its magnificent situation is such that it is probable the unique claims of the town walls are sometimes overlooked. Apart from the Castle there are as many as twenty-eight towers on the walls.

The London and North Western Railway Company has in recent years underbuilt the Castle towers on the side adjoining their line, and a considerable length of the town walls, which were becoming undermined, There was otherwise, however, very little sign of attention or repair, and the Castle within, and the walls in many places, had got into a very unsatisfactory condition, the latter having in many places been injured by the en-

croachment of domestic buildings, by the sinking of foundations, and still more by the action of the weather on the merlons and loopholes that give so much character to the upper parts.

About three years ago the Committee sent an architect of great experience in dealing with old buildings, to examine the remains, and he made a most exhaustive and careful report on the whole of the ruins, containing various recommendations as to their future treatment. A copy of this was sent to the Corporation of the town. No action seems to have followed for some time, but the present Mayor of Conway has within the past twelve months initiated a series of repairs, and spent £100 in carrying out some of the recommendations of the Society's report. He has also taken possession in the name of the town of a considerable length of the walls, which have in many places been allowed to lapse into private hands. A light hand-rail has been erected along the inner side of the fortifications on the south side of the town, so that one can walk along that part.

These proceedings have met with considerable opposition in the town, especially the removal of a quantity of ivy from the Castle. Nothing, however, seems to have been done to permanently injure the appearance of the ruins, and their stability is no doubt greatly increased. Though the removal of ivy may for a time reduce the picturesqueness of an old ruin, it is often, as in many parts of Conway, necessary, as ivy may be exceedingly destructive.

Lately there has been some correspondence in the local papers, advocating, in addition to necessary repairs, works of "restoration," such as the erecting of drawbridges and gates, and the roofing and flooring of towers. The latter suggestions are foolish and uncalled for, the former are wise and necessary, and the Committee has addressed a letter to the paper protesting against any works of "restoration."

Whitgift's Hospital, Croydon.

The threatened destruction of part of this historical fabric cannot but be regarded with deep regret, as one of the two typical buildings in the County of Surrey, the other being Archbishop Abbot's Hospital at Guildford.

Any removal or destruction would obliterate, not only local history, but efface the real object for which these institutions had been founded, *viz.*, the maintenance of deserving poor or other meritorious persons within certain districts of the county.

With the Hospital is connected the School at Croydon, a charity greatly furthered by Dr. Whitgift's scheme of usefulness, and which has increased commensurately with modern educational wants. In architectural value also, Whitgift's Hospital cannot be overlooked; many details of internal woodwork have formed the subject for drawing or prize studies by the student and artist, and the lessons to be learnt from these Elizabethan structures, form an essential item in all beginners' work. To destroy such buildings is not only

to lessen the technical advantages which these examples offer, but to take away the history of the county, and with that a portion of English history itself.

We cannot but rejoice that the action of this Society, combined with the Society of Antiquaries, has arrested immediate steps, but it is for the public, who care to see such valuable illustrations preserved, to strengthen this Society for future action, if needful.

Dovercourt Church, near Harwich.

This was one of those churches which gave to the landscape a grace beyond every other quality in building: an element so subtle, that even keen observers are often in doubt as to what it is in the old handiwork which provides so fine a pleasure.

If, as in the case of Dovercourt, the church happens to be at a fashionable, or would-be fashionable seaside resort, it is the one thing there which has kinship with the dignity of the land, and the wonder of the sea. It is such a place, when an ancient building undergoes the transformation of a "restoration," which is robbed not only of the inexpressible, but also of the more direct qualities of beauty, which give the impression of gentleness as well as natural simplicity.

When the floodgate is opened from the big towns at the summer season, those of the temporary migration who feel it their duty to attend a church must have it made attractive, as it is called, or they will not use a part of their short holiday in attending at—what must be to them—a common old building, in no way re-

sembling the up-to-date churches they have been accustomed to in the suburbs of London or other large towns. These visitors want to see "art"-stained glass, art-flooring tiles, brass work, brilliantly stained deal fittings, etc., etc., and a general flash of things discordant which will vie with the dresses put on for "church parade." This is the mud-element which such buildings as Dovercourt Church have had to pass through, as have so many solemnly habited places of old worship, and they cannot be purified by such a process.

For example, the sound old roof tiles at Dovercourt, with the refining touch of age upon them, have had to give way to new ones of inferior and untested quality; and, as the newspaper report of the "restoration" says: "Three new windows have been opened up and filled with stained glass; the stone quoins of the windows have been restored; the porch and vestry have been re-roofed," while "a new organ, by Messrs. Rayson and Son, of Ipswich, has been provided; and the only thing that now remains to be done is the refacing of the old tower." If this too goes through the process it will be the unkindest scrape of all; for it is one of those modest and yet powerfully suggestive landmarks which, if it suffers from the dreaded operation—as is customary, one more potent charm will have been succeeded by the impotent. But the tower is greatly in need of skilled repair; many know only too well how troublesome this is to do, and how easy it is to "reface." Too few of us care enough to resist the invitation of the broad way.

The Sun Inn, Eton.

The case of the "Sun Inn" at Eton, is a typical instance of the way in which most of the pleasanter features of our towns disappear, when a very little care or foresight would save them.

The house is described in the *Builders' Journal* of February 16th, 1898, as having formed "for three centuries a picturesque feature in the architecture of the High Street. At a small table, almost outworn with age, George III. used often to dine when he went to college. The old pump bore the date 1742, and on the front wall there was, oddly enough, a plate affixed in the last century by the Sun Insurance Company in the early days of fireplates. The house possessed some fine arched oaken beams, and the laths were perpendicular and fastened with willow twigs." In fact it was like some other old-fashioned, unpretending houses which still give the long street what charm it has, and which will no doubt disappear in the same way. The lease was up. An enterprising firm of brewers (Messrs. Ashby and Co., Staines) applied for a new lease to build a "tied" house (the Sun was a "free" house) on the site. The terms offered were accepted, a lease was signed in the ordinary routine of business and the demolition began.

It might indeed have been hoped that as the property belonged to an educational body like Eton College, the old house might have been valued for its own sake and preserved, or again, that owning much of the town and being patrons of the living, the College might have considered whether it were desirable to have a new public

house built in a street which already contains ten others, or whether a tied house were, from the point of view of public morals, an improvement on a free house.

None of these questions seem to have occurred, the papers were signed unnoticed, and when a petition against the change was presented by the vicar and churchwardens and all the principal ratepayers and School authorities, they were told that it was too late and nothing could be done. A second petition sent in by some masters of the School, in the hope that something might be done to improve the designs for the new building (which are of very common-place character) was treated in the same way, and a private correspondence with the firm met with the same answer.

If this is the way in which the responsibilities of landed property are treated by a richly endowed conservative corporation, existing almost entirely for educational purposes, and largely consisting of influential men selected by the most learned and dignified bodies in England, what hope is there for public-spirited action or reverence of association or value of the picturesque from smaller men who are not acting as national trustees, but are bound to make of the little that they have as much as they can in the market. The incident is the more disappointing, because some years ago public opinion was brought to bear very effectively on some proposed changes at Eton.

That small and unpretentious buildings may be picturesque and worth preserving, as well as those that are

important and really antique, has yet to be learnt in many places besides Eton.

Exeter Cathedral.

The exterior of this noble church was little altered in the great restoration directed by Sir Gilbert Scott about thirty years ago, and the north front is probably the most uninjured piece of early mediæval work remaining in England. Like all old buildings situated in considerable towns the stonework is being seriously attacked by the acids carried in the smoke-laden air.

Large restorations of portions have been made to the south front, and quite recently to the west front. The west front, an extraordinarily romantic work, was almost intact (with the exception of the great window, which was renewed by John Carter about a century ago) until two years since.

Everyone looking on the south front of the nave will admit, we think, that the restoration has been excessive and unsympathetic. At the west front we believe an endeavour has been made to do as little as seemed possible from the restoring point of view, and we rejoice that the noble screen has been left almost as it was. But the very serious fact is obvious that a considerable percentage of this wonderful front is now modern imitation work instead of an authentic work of art.

However, we are again glad to record that as compared to the reckless and savage assaults on many of our other cathedrals, this work at Exeter has been painstaking and modest. Especially would we point

out that of the two ranges of blank niche work on either side of the great window, only one has been renewed and the other has been wisely allowed to remain. This is not only a gain so far as beauty goes but is clear evidence that the arcades did once exist.

All exterior stonework (and interior also, especially where gas is burnt) is continuously decaying, and a percentage of original wrought surface disappears every year. In view of this fact we would venture to suggest to the Cathedral authorities that they should have a very complete survey made of all the work under their charge by means of large detailed drawings to scale, and photographs, especially of every carved stone. If this were done and the results laid up in the archives, we feel that there would be less feeling in favour of that actual renewal, which is in fact the most complete destruction alike of beauty and evidence.

One other suggestion we are bound to make in the interest of the preservation of these old buildings. Wherever ancient stonework is found which is hard and sharp on the surface, close examination will almost invariably show that it has a skin of whitewash (now turned black) on the surface. Records show that whitewashing was customary right through the mediæval period, and there is no doubt that not only was the bright cleanliness appreciated, but that the wash was applied as a thin coat of protective plaster to the surfaces. We do not venture to suggest that ancient work should be whitewashed without careful experiment lasting over some years, but we do seriously recommend

that such experiments should be made on unimportant portions of decaying walls.

We hope that a renewal of the glass in the west window need no longer be feared. The glass in itself is poor enough as a work of art, but we have become accustomed to it, the colour is mellowed by time, and above all it is not obtrusive in the lovely interior. A new window in bright new glass, "correct" in style, would be the only thing one would see in turning westward to leave the Church. It would be like a great advertisement of some ecclesiastical firm.

Exeter Guildhall.

It was brought to the knowledge of the Society that the Town Council of Exeter was anxious about the ancient Guildhall, and the Committee therefore wrote and offered to survey the building and give advice as to its treatment. This offer was gladly accepted, and two professional members of the Society surveyed the building, and met with every help from both the Town Clerk and the Town Surveyor.

The report which was sent to the Town Council is now being considered, and we have reason to believe that the Society's views will be adopted and acted upon.

We give no description of the building, as it is too well known to make this necessary.

Law Relating to Antiquities in Foreign Countries.

The Society of Antiquaries having appointed a Committee to ascertain what steps could be taken to pre-

vent the destruction, either by demolition or restoration, of historical buildings in this country, Lord Salisbury, at the request of that Society, issued in May, 1896, a Circular to Her Majesty's Representatives in Austria, Bavaria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Russia, Saxony, Sweden and Norway, Switzerland, and the United States, enquiring what statutory provisions as to the preservation of Abbeys, Castles, Cathedrals, and other historic buildings existed in those countries.

The result, embodied in fifteen reports and forty most interesting enclosures, has recently been published as a Parliamentary Blue Book. It gives exhaustive particulars of the provisions in force in the different countries, and is so far satisfactory as evidencing considerable appreciation of ancient buildings and similar antiquities ; but no information is given as to the practical working of the regulations adopted by the various States—a point which it is clear would very much depend upon the education of the public taste as to the true interest and value attaching to works of the past. It is encouraging to see that the "Bavarian Government Journal for Church and School Affairs," pointed out, as far back as 1884, the devastation which had been wrought in the interior of particular churches by the "Restoration mania."

It should be stated that the "National Trust for Places of Historical Interest and Natural Beauty" had previously instituted a similar enquiry, though on a somewhat wider basis, and the report from the Danish

Minister consists of a Memorandum which, he states, he had unofficially supplied to that body.

All Saints' Church, Godshill, Isle of Wight.

This is an unrestored church of great beauty and interest. It is, we regret to say, sadly in need of repair, and the vicar, at whose request the Society visited the church, is only waiting until the necessary funds are collected to put in hand the work recommended by the Society. In June, 1897, the tower was struck by lightning, and considerable damage done to the parapet.

The church consists of a nave and north aisle of equal width, and has north and south chapels forming a transept. In the south chapel are remains of a large fresco of the Crucifixion. Both chancel and north aisle have fine Jacobean altar tables. Over the south chapel is a small sanctus bell dating from 1450, hanging under a stone canopy.

The chief repair needed is to the roofs, whose tie beams, with their ends buried in the wall, have become rotten and lost their hold, and allowed the roof to spread, thus thrusting the walls out of the perpendicular.

The vicar (Rev. R. H. Pemberton Bartlett) writes that he is anxious to carry out the necessary repairs to the church, but that he is at present held back by lack of funds. It is to be hoped that so beautiful and interesting a church may not be allowed to sink into further disrepair, since every year is adding, not only

to the extent of work necessary, but also to the difficulty and expense of doing it.

St. Mary's Church, Guildford.

The Society has timely intervened in the preservation of the vaulting of the apse of St. John's Chapel in this church, where are the remains of some very interesting frescoes, which have long been known to the artistic world by the descriptions of J. G. Waller, F.S.A.

By judicious strengthening of the vaulting all tendency of the apparent crumbling away of the surface on which the frescoes were painted has been made secure, and the painting will now be saved to art students as well as to the town, wherein it certainly claims a high place in its annals.

Castle Archway Cottage, Guildford, Surrey.

The following letter and enclosure were sent by the Committee to the Guildford Town Council :

10, BUCKINGHAM STREET,
ADELPHI, W.C.

In re Castle Arch Cottage, Guildford.

To the Town Clerk of Guildford.

SIR,—I visited the above with a professional member of my Committee, on Saturday, and was met by the Town Surveyor, who courteously told me, in reply to my questions, what was proposed to be done.

It is all-important to the town that the beauty of the exterior of this house should be preserved intact, and when the interior is seen it will be realised that the

house is an architecturally historical building and one that requires repairing carefully and in detail.

The Surveyor informed us that he had prepared a Specification, and that he was proposing to invite tenders.

Upon hearing this I have been directed by my Committee to write at once and respectfully ask that the Town Council will instruct Mr. Mason to carry out the repairs by directing a builder on the spot, and from time to time, without the aid of a Specification. The professional members of my Committee urged this course as being the only possible way of carrying out the work economically and in a conservative spirit.

We will give one example with a view of helping to show the necessity of this course.

The Surveyor has specified a new deal roof to take the place of the existing oak one. Now it would be practically impossible to specify in detail the repairs needed to the existing oak roof; nevertheless, it is a substantial roof which can easily be repaired, and when repaired, will make a far better roof than the proposed deal one, and yet the Surveyor, if compelled to have a competition among builders for the work, has practically no option but to specify a new roof, owing to the difficulty of specifying in writing the repairs needed to the old one.

We described to the Surveyor how we considered the building should be repaired, and I believe he entirely concurred, but in order that your Town Council may know our views, I have briefly stated what my Committee would wish to see done, and enclose it with this letter.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THACKERAY TURNER, *Secretary.*

March 14th, 1898.

Notes on Repair.

1. The tile projection at back ought not to be removed.
2. The fine oak entrance doorway should be allowed to remain in its present position.
3. The roof should be stripped, drawn up into position as far as practicable, timbers strengthened, notably the broken purlin on the south side, which should be made good by an angle iron fixed under it by coach screws. Where necessary the rafters should be firred up, and the whole covered with three-quarter deal boarding free from sap, on the back of which battens should be nailed to receive the tile lathing, and the tiles rehung. Deficiency in tiles to be made good by procuring second-hand tiles.
4. External oak framework should be strengthened where necessary, and the tiles rehung on rent oak laths if they can be procured, if not, on substantial fir laths. The difficulty of wind blowing through this framing can easily be overcome by placing a thickness of lath and plaster in a line with the centre of the oak uprights (a common and successful modern method), and then lath and plastering the framework on the inside to form the lining of the rooms.
5. The sash windows in street bay should be entirely renewed in exact conformity with existing windows. There is no objection to enlarging the other modern windows, provided the windows introduced do not deceive by leading to the belief that they are the original or a copy of the original windows.
6. All the beautiful fireplaces, as well as the oak doors and doorways, should be strictly preserved unaltered.
7. Floors and staircases to be repaired where needed.

Lastly, there is one point which we must mention, although it really comes under another head.

The ancient fourteenth century Castle archway is

being rapidly destroyed by the shrubs growing upon it, and the Committee would urge the Town to carefully remove them, and the rubble work in which they are growing, down to the level of the brick string course, to bring the wall up to an even surface at that level, to cover it with a complete layer of asphalt, and then to replace the rubble work and as much of the vegetation as can reasonably be replaced, and when this is done the opportunity might be taken of giving the angle of the house additional support from the top of the archway wall.

THACKERAY TURNER, *Secretary.*

March 14th, 1898.

From the local press we gather that the Society's representations were favourably received, but—presumably, as the matter was in the hands of the Surrey Archæological Society—no interference was thought necessary or desirable, and neither should it have been, but as a matter of fact, nearly everything done has been in opposition to the Society's expressed wishes.

Haddon Hall, Derbyshire.

In November of last year three professional members of the Society visited Haddon Hall, with the approval of the Duke of Rutland; and two days were spent in going over the entire building with Mr. Rye, the Clerk of Works, and a most thorough examination was made of all parts of this famous old House.

The Society, in its Report, highly commended the excellent state in which the building has been preserved, emphasising its exceptional value as representing for us a virtually unaltered mediæval palace.

That this quality may be strictly preserved is the

very earnest wish of the Society, for it is difficult, if at all possible, to point to even a small house in which can still be seen thus completely undisturbed so many of the familiar surroundings of fifteenth century English domestic life.

Among the points to which special time and attention were given are :

- (a) The Entrance Gateway.
- (b) The Great Tower over the same.
- (c) The Tower over the staircase from the Hall.
- (d) The Earl's Rooms on the south side of the Lower Court.
- (e) The Aviary.
- (f) The lead roofing, the lead lights, tapestry, etc.

It was found that very serious movement had taken place in the great tower by the entrance, and it was evident, from examination of the interior, and from plumbing the west wall of the tower, that the large overhanging turret was causing this wall to lean forward from the summit, while a movement in the foundation of the great curtain wall to the south of the tower, had occasioned that wall also to lean westwards.

Great pains were taken to ascertain the exact nature and causes of the various cracks and settlements, and accurate measurements of the tower, together with careful plumbing and levelling, enabled the Society to indicate very clearly in its Report the exact trouble, and the manner of effectually dealing with it.

In examining the earl's rooms and the aviary, it was found that the outer walls of this building had no tie

throughout their length (some sixty feet). The south wall had moved, and appeared to be still moving, outwards. The north wall had apparently, before the insertion of the shallow bay windows, also shown a tendency to do the same. To arrest this movement, in walls some twenty-five feet high, the Society recommended that a new three foot thick wall, well bonded to the old walls, should be built back to the fifteenth century curtain wall which runs longitudinally between them in the aviary below the earl's rooms.

After a thorough examination of all the lead roofing and gutters, it was found that the lead roof over the long gallery was past repair, and it was recommended that the old lead should be taken up and recast on the site, and then relaid with a welted joint as before, any repairs needed to the roof timbers being undertaken at the same time.

The Society strongly recommended that all repairs to the lead light panels should be done as far as possible without removing the panels, this being the more urgent owing to the unusual interest attaching to their intentionally curved formation, the measurement between the mullions being some two inches less than that of the surface of the leaded panel measured in the same direction.

Evidence of this custom, which presumably aimed at brilliance of effect from outside, may be seen at Leven's Hall, in Westmoreland, and it is known to have been practised in Holland.

In its Report the Society gave full and careful

directions for all the repairs necessary, including such matters as preserving intact the old iron window fastenings, many of them most intricate and beautiful, which in some cases have almost perished from rust.

On receiving the Report, and in writing to the Society, Mr. Rye expressed his anxiety to do all that was in his power to preserve the Hall, and in the manner indicated, and hoped that, should any further difficulties arise, the Society would again give its assistance.

Inglesham Church, Wilts.

Our member and local correspondent, the Rev. Oswald Birchall, is now making a great effort to raise the final £200 needed to complete the repairs of Inglesham Church.

Its wonderful beauty and exceptional interest have already been enlarged upon in our Report for 1887.

The Bishop writes as follows :

17, THE AVENUE,
CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

My DEAR RECTOR OF BUSCOT,—I visited Inglesham Church in 1893 with Mr. Micklethwaite, and discussed it with Dr. Middleton, one of my most intimate friends, and an intimate friend of Mr. William Morris. I know and approve the views of all three.

I take the deepest interest in this venerable relic and record of the past. It must be made quite safe against decay ; and as long as I am bishop of the diocese no plan for its treatment will be passed which tampers with its characteristic features.

I regard it as quite safe in Mr. Micklethwaite's care.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) G. F. BRISTOL.

Now that we have the Bishop's warm support we have every hope of seeing the repairs to this building, which Mr. William Morris made such an effort to save, satisfactorily completed.

Cistercian Abbey Gateway, Kingswood, near Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire.

A local effort is being made to purchase this most interesting building and to repair and preserve it. The actual cost of the building is £80, but a further sum of £30 is needed for repairs, making a total of £110. Of this sum about £50 has been collected.

As the Society has an assurance from the chairman of the trustees that the repairs to the building shall be carried out in accordance with its recommendations, it is anxious that the remaining £60 required should be collected, and it thinks this is a case to which members of the Society who desire to do so may safely subscribe, making their contributions conditional upon the work when completed, having the approval of the Society, as it has offered to give a report, stating what repairs are needed and how they should be done.

London Mediæval Antiquities.

It is a remarkable fact that London contains fewer mediæval antiquities than any other city of the same age. The author of the article on Architecture in London, in *Weale's London and its Vicinity* (Mr. E. L. Garbett, Hon. Mem.) writing in 1851, divides English buildings chronologically into four periods, the

first being that of original buildings, extending from the earliest times to about 1350, the second extends from the above date to about 1600, the third from 1600 to 1780, and the fourth from the latter date to the present day. "In the present age," the author above quoted continues, "peculiar interest attaches to the relics however slight, that remain from the first period of art. . . . In London they are perhaps fewer than in any other city old enough to contain any. The successive ravages of iconoclasm, fire, coal smoke, a destructive climate, commercial cupidity, and (worst of all) the forgery called 'restoration,' have left this metropolis (after sweeping off two of the finest monuments within these twenty years), only four considerable portions of works of the age of unpretence, and a few fragments. These four works are the Pix Office, Westminster; the White Tower; the Crypt of the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside; and the remains of St. Bartholomew's Priory Church, Smithfield."

Incredible as it may seem, the Corporation of the City of London recently proposed to form a street from Cripplegate to Smithfield, which would have passed over the site of the cloisters of St. Bartholomew's Church, and would have destroyed the gateway to the priory precinct, one of the few specimens of early English work in London left to us. Fortunately the London County Council declined to approve this scheme or to contribute to the cost of the so-called improvement, which has been consequently abandoned, but it is not improbable that the proposal may be renewed at some

future time. The risk to which this priceless relic in common with others is exposed from commercial cupidity and other destructive influences points to the urgent necessity of the completion of the scheduling all buildings and structures in the Metropolis worthy of preservation, a work on which the London County Council has been for some time engaged with the co-operation of the Society and of other kindred societies.

London. Coopers' Almhouses, Ratcliff.

These almhouses, which were erected towards the end of last century, have recently been demolished.

They were, however, previous to their destruction, visited by the Committee for the Survey of the Memorials of Greater London, who discovered several exceedingly interesting and historically valuable memorial tablets of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries relating to the Old Coopers. These were in the housebreakers' hands, and about to be destroyed.

The Committee of the Survey addressed a letter to the Clerk of the Coopers' Company, and received a reply to the effect that the tablets should be put in a safe place and preserved by the Company.

This Society also made enquiries, and has been informed by the Clerk that the Court of the Company have given instructions for the preservation and safe custody of the tablets.

London. Victoria Embankment and St. John's Improvement Bill.

This Bill when first issued provided, among other things, for the destruction of the Jewel Tower, etc.

Had the Bill as first drafted been persisted in, the Society would have opposed it on the following grounds :

(1) That it would involve the loss of the Jewel Tower and many old houses of interest without any corresponding gain.

(2) That it would increase the danger to the Abbey from fire by permitting it to be crowded round by large buildings ; and

(3) That it would rob the Abbey of its size and dignity by permitting it to be dwarfed by high buildings surrounding it.

However, before the Bill came on in the House of Commons it was modified to such an extent that the objections to it from the Society's point of view were largely removed. The Bill, however, was rejected by the House by an overwhelming majority.

White Hart Inn, Maiden Newton, Dorset.

It came to the knowledge of the Committee that there was a proposal on foot for the destruction of this building, and it therefore made arrangements for it to be visited by one of its professional members.

In his report our member stated that the building was a characteristic and most beautiful example of

West country inn, and the chief feature of interest in the village.

The Society decided to approach the owners, Messrs. Devenish, brewers, and in its letter to them begged that the main front should be left in its present condition subject to necessary repairs, and that any additional accommodation needed should be provided at the back. This could have been done quite easily and without interfering to any great extent with the present aspect of the building.

We regret to say, however, that the owners in their reply stated that they feared it would be impossible to comply with the Society's request.

The latest information is, that the house is to be entirely rebuilt, and thus a beautiful building, which is without doubt a work of art, and which cannot possibly be replaced, is to be destroyed, when by care and consideration it could have been preserved with but slight (if any) inconvenience.

It might be thought that even from a commercial point of view, the owners would have decided to retain the building, as there are many who spend their holidays in travelling about to see buildings such as this.

Cloth Hall, Newbury.

This building was visited by the Society at the request of the Newbury Field Club, and after careful examination was found to be, on the whole, in a fair state of repair, the exposed woodwork and the fine iron weather-vane chiefly demanding attention.

It is an interesting building and forms part of a peculiar and picturesque group situated by what is known as the wharf and stretching from the "White Hart" Inn down to the canal.

The lowest storey, now closed up with brickwork, was originally an open market-house or loggia, the upper part of the building being supported upon nine circular oak columns, with carved cantilevers. All three storeys are at present used by a corn merchant, but the Newbury Field Club are endeavouring to make some arrangement by which the safety and permanent preservation of this valuable link with the former greatness of Newbury and her cloth-workers may be ensured.

Hospital of St. Bartholomew's, Oxford.

The Hospital, which is locally known as "Bartlemas," is one of the oldest foundations of the kind in England, and was founded about 1126, for the housing (*hospitationem*) and sustentation of infirm lepers, the foundation comprising twelve brethren with a chaplain, for which purpose the king assigned twenty-three pounds of silver and five pennies, and other royal gifts; but many private individuals, connected with the City and County of Oxford, also subsequently became benefactors to St. Bartholomew's, so that the Hospital was possessed of a considerable amount of property, both in land and rents. Abuses soon crept in, Adam de Weston being a noted offender; an inquiry was held in 1312-16, with the object of putting the charity on a better footing; the brethren were then reduced in number to eight, and it

was directed that the chaplain should, as priest and master, reside at the hospital. Matters did not however improve, and the Hospital was, in 1328, with a view to better administration, handed over to Oriel College, on condition that daily service should be held in the Chapel; the brethren to have residence (in the Hospital) and ninepence a week for sustenance, with five shillings a year each for clothing. The College was also to have the right to send its inmates to the Hospital for purer air in times of sickness. The brethren, improperly called almsmen, now number four instead of eight, and are allowed by Oriel the ninepence a week and five shillings a year each, but no lodging is provided for them, nor is service held in the Chapel.

The Hospital buildings are now used for farming purposes. They are on Cowley Road, and stand in a field just beyond the rapidly advancing outskirts of Oxford.

The Chapel was rebuilt during the Lancastrian period, and contains: (*a*) the original dedication crosses—these are painted on whitewash, conclusively proving that the interior of the Chapel was whitewashed before it was dedicated, which, it is fair to assume, was soon after it was rebuilt; (*b*) some fine characteristic Oxfordshire windows, two of which were probably part of the original fourteenth-century building; (*c*) a screen with O. C. 1651 carved on it, the initials of the College which administered the Charity. It is of interest to note that this screen was made during the Commonwealth. The building is structurally in a good state of repair.

The lodgings for the brethren, which were rebuilt in 1649, are now used as stables for chaff-cutting and storage. They contain much of the original work, partitions, stairs, and especially the old doorways, which have the initials of the College and of the Provost and the Treasurer carved in the spandrils over the doors. It is noticeable that few ancient buildings devoted to this use have escaped modernisation so completely as this one.

Part of the farmhouse may have been originally the master's house, but of this fact we have no certain knowledge. The farmhouse is a picturesque building, which surely everyone would be sorry to see destroyed.

The historical value of this group of buildings is great, there being too few examples remaining to show the arrangement and plan of an institution of this kind. The most notable example is, perhaps, the Hospital of Saint Cross, near Winchester, which has quite recently escaped modernisation, owing to its historical value, and the buildings at Oxford should certainly be treated with similar respect. It will be strange indeed if Oxford cannot afford to keep such valuable records of the past, to say nothing of their undoubted worth as works of art.

We understand that the settlement of the question as affecting the charity was practically agreed to at the meeting of the Oxford Town Council on April 6th, but as to the future of the building little has been arranged, except that it is understood that the Chapel, with a suitable amount of land attached, is to be reserved for

such uses as the Charity Commissioners shall hereafter direct, the other buildings being proposed to be handed over to Oriel College as College property. It will, therefore, rest with the College to see that these unique domestic buildings are kept in use and thereby preserved. No harm is being done to the buildings by their present occupation.

Timber Belfry at Pembridge, Herefordshire.

Of all the detached bell towers for which Herefordshire is famous, the one at Pembridge is the most striking. It consists of a group of gigantic posts set in the ground to support the frame-work for the bells, with a stone building surrounding it as a first storey, upon which two higher storeys of timber are placed, all three roofed with stone tiles, and making altogether an extraordinarily picturesque object. It is probable that it has been erected at various dates, the oldest portions being of the 14th century.

As there were rumours of restoration and re-roofing with slate, the Committee offered to send an architect to examine the belfry, and the offer was accepted. There now seems every probability that the building will be carefully repaired, without injury to its ancient character.

Peterborough Town Hall.

All who know Peterborough Cathedral must also know the graceful building which faces the visitor on his return from the Cathedral.

The Society heard in July last that, as the Town Hall proved too small for modern requirements, a proposal was on foot for its removal to make way for new municipal buildings.

The Society at once addressed the Mayor and Corporation, and we hope with better success than it met with when addressing the Dean and Chapter on the subject of the West front of the Cathedral. It has been decided to enlarge the building from the back, and we are in the hope that the final result will be to provide all the accommodation that is needed and still retain the valuable old building practically unaltered. Time will show whether our hopes will be realised.

Pirton Church, Herts.

This Church was visited on behalf of the Society in April, 1883, when it was found that with the exception of the chancel, the building had been "thoroughly restored."

As the Lay Rector was responsible for the repairs to the chancel, the Society wrote to him, and urged that all work done should be confined to the works of necessary repairs, which it enumerated.

The Society recently heard from him that the Vicar and Churchwardens had called a vestry meeting to ask for a faculty to restore the chancel, and that it was proposed to put on a new roof, new east window, new floor, etc., etc., to which he strongly objected, as he did not want to destroy the ancient character of the chancel.

Report.

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He also stated that he had instructed his solicitor to appear at the vestry meeting and oppose the scheme.

The Society accordingly sent a copy of its letter containing its recommendations to the solicitor, who in reply informed it that the scheme for the "restoration" of the chancel had been defeated at the vestry meeting, the resolution not having a seconder.

The Society is deeply indebted to the Lay Rector for his action in the matter, for had the chancel been "restored" the Church would to all intents and purposes have ceased to exist as an ancient building.

Ranworth Church, Norfolk.

This building has recently been visited by a professional member of the Society, with a representative of the Society of Antiquaries, and a joint report has been drawn up.

The Church dates chiefly from the fifteenth century, and is noted for its magnificent painted rood screen and reredoses to the nave altars, which form a composition unequalled by any now existing in the district—a district famed for its screens.

The building is in a bad state of repair, but we feel sure that if the recommendations contained in the Report are followed, the building will be preserved and made fit for Divine worship without appreciable loss of interest.

Joiners' Hall, Salisbury.

We are glad to be able to state that this building of which an account was printed in our last Report, has

S.W

ospital,

now been purchased by the "National Trust" and the necessary repairs advocated in our report are to be carried out forthwith.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that such an excellent Society has been formed, for its existence enables us to point out to custodians who are owners of ancient buildings, that if they do not like the trouble they entail, the buildings may still be preserved by arranging that they shall become the property of the "National Trust."

Lake House, Salisbury.

We have received the following letter from the owner of Lake House, Salisbury, which case was noticed in our last year's report, and as we have permission to publish it, the Committee does so, thinking that it may interest our readers:

LAKE HOUSE,
SALISBURY.

May 22nd, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—As the work of preservation of Lake House is now complete, permit me to express my deep sense of obligation to your Society for their advice and assistance, and to say how completely the method of procedure recommended has answered its purpose.

The state of the building was such as to cause the greatest anxiety, the chalk walls were crushed to disintegration, whilst the characteristic stone and flint outer facings were seriously buckled and cracked, some places were so bad as to appear almost hopeless of preservation without taking down, but by your method of cautiously removing the crushed chalk a little at a time and tying in the outer stone and flint to the inner wall as the work proceeded, the preservation has been ac-

complished without removing a stone. The essential parts of the building remain as left by the original builders, whilst the intrinsic strength is much greater, and I feel sure that all antiquaries in common with myself will consider that a good work has been accomplished.

I remain,

Yours very faithfully,

JOSEPH W. LOVIBOND.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF
ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

St. Mary Stratford, Bow Church.

The Society may claim to have won a success in the matter of the ancient Parish Church of Bow, in East London. About two years ago an agitation was started in the district for the removal of the church, and for the purchase of the site by the London County Council. Sir Arthur Blomfield, moreover, had pronounced the church to be in a dangerous condition, and there was a possibility not only of its abandonment, but of its destruction.

The Committee for the Survey of the Memorials of Greater London took the matter up, and at Mr. Ashbee's instigation asked this Society to prepare a report from the conservative point of view. This was done, but for two years the matter hung fire, and the church remained during nearly the whole of that time with only a tarpaulin to cover the roof. When the new Bishop of Stepney came into power he very wisely saw that it would be both an economy and an advantage if the Society's Report could be adopted. He thereupon

formed a new Committee, inviting representation from us, from the Survey Committee, and from the National Trust. Mr. Ashbee was asked to act as the representative of the two former bodies, and Mr. Ambrose Poynter for the latter became one of the collectors of funds for the new Committee. Several letters appeared in the *Times*. The Society revised its report up to date, and it may now be said that the scheme for the repair of this, one of the most beautiful churches in the East End of London, is being vigorously prosecuted. The new Committee, acting under the direction of the Council of this Society, are in hopes of shortly commencing the work, which they propose to carry out in stages as the money comes in. The Society would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Bishop of Stepney and Archdeacon Sinclair for their kindly recognition of its efforts, and their friendly co-operation, and of calling the attention of its members to the National Trust fund on behalf of the Church.

Teddington Church, Middlesex.

About the old Church at Teddington, which forms such a picturesque group with the old houses west of it, the Committee cannot report so favourably. It is mainly of eighteenth century date, with an interesting brass of Henry VII.'s time, and some brick work in the south aisle probably of the sixteenth century. Among the monuments it contains is one to Peg Woffington. The building of the new church opposite has led to the disuse of the old one, which bids fair to

become ruinous and then to be swept away. It was visited last July by two members, and a letter was addressed to the vicar, pointing out its historical value in the neighbourhood of London. The intention appears to be to allow it to fall to pieces, and then to build a chapel in the new church to commemorate the old one, and to move some of the monuments into this new chapel, which will be a poor compensation for the loss of an unpretentious and agreeable old building.

Twickenham Church, Middlesex.

This is a square brick church of the Wren type, with a west tower remaining from an earlier church. This tower is stoutly built of grey stone, which has weathered to a light colour, and it makes a very beautiful feature in the landscape of the Thames valley. The tower of the old church at Richmond has lately been restored in such a way as to deprive it of all interest, and the Committee, therefore, instructed two of its members to visit Twickenham in case the tower there should be threatened with a similar fate. A letter was sent to the vicar and churchwardens, as well as to the architect, urging the importance of preserving the tower with as little interference as possible, and the Committee is glad to report that their suggestions were courteously received and that the plans, as stated to them, do not involve any likelihood of avoidable damage to the church.

West Stafford Church, near Dorchester.

This little church is of much interest, since it ap-

pears that few changes have been made in it since it was refitted about the middle of the seventeenth century. It consists of a western tower, a south porch, on which is carved the date 1640, and an oblong nave, the eastern portion of which is divided from the rest of the church, by a richly carved seventeenth century screen so as to form a ritual chancel. Owing to the death of the last rector changes have been threatened. A proposal was made by his successor to build a new chancel, change the position of the screen, re-seat the church, which now contains somewhat high pews with carved doors of the same date as the screen, and remove a western gallery. The ostensible ground for these changes is the desire to increase the accommodation. The Society suggested, if real need for enlargement existed, the building of a north transept, but this proposal was not entertained by the rector, and the Restoration Committee. The church has been visited by the Secretary, and also on two occasions by the local correspondent who has photographed it, and some letters appeared in the *Dorset County Chronicle* pointing out that the proposals of the Restoration Committee would entirely destroy the unique features of a building, which in its present condition is a specimen of a country church restored and probably partially rebuilt at a time when little church building was going on in England. At present the work of building a new chancel has not been begun, but it is to be feared that the protests of the Society will not avail to save the church from changes that will result in loss of interest and destroy its character.

The following is a list of the Buildings which have come before the Society during the year :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| Abbey Dore Church, Herefordshire | Bury St. Edmund's, Suffolk,
The Norman Tower |
| Aberdeen, Greyfriars Church | Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk,
The Abbey Ruins |
| Aberdeen, St. Mary's Chapel,
St. Nicholas' Church | Cadoxton-Juxta-Neath Church,
Glamorganshire |
| Abingdon Church, Berkshire | Caergwre Castle, Flints. |
| Alfriston, Sussex, Old Clergy
House | Canterbury Cathedral, Kent |
| All Hallows Church, near
Aspatria, Cumberland | Carisbrooke Church, I. of W. |
| Anwick, Lincs., St. Edith's
Church | Chester, Bishop Lloyd's Palace |
| Arbroath Priory, N.B. | Chichester Cathedral, Sussex |
| Austrey, Atherstone, Warwickshire,
Ancient Cross | Chippenhams Church, Bells,
Cambs. |
| Bakewell Church, Derbyshire | Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire,
The Town Hall |
| Bayham Abbey Ruins, Sussex | Chipping Warden Church,
Northants |
| Beaconsfield, Bucks., Old Rectory | Clare Church, Suffolk |
| Bebington Church, Cheshire | Clitheroe Church, Lancs. |
| Berry Pomeroy Church, Devonshire | Coldingham Priory, Berwickshire |
| Bideford Bridge, Devonshire | Corton Chapel, Dorset |
| Birkenhead, Cheshire, The
Priory Ruins | Crantock Church, Cornwall |
| Black Torrington Church,
Devonshire | Croydon, Surrey, Whitgift
Almshouses |
| Bourne, Lincs., Old Red Hall | Cyprus Antiquities |
| Bozeat Church, Northants | Dormston Church, Worcs. |
| Brechin Cathedral, N.B. | Dover, Kent, St. Mary's Church
Tower |
| | Dovercourt Church, Essex |

- Douglas, Isle of Man, St. George's Church
 Douglas, Isle of Man, St. Matthew's Church
 Dunfirmline Abbey, N.B.
 Dunstanburgh Castle, Northumberland
 Durrington Church, Sussex
 East Barnet Church, Herts.
 East Lulworth Church Tower, Dorset
 Eckington, Worcestershire, Ancient Cross
 Eton, Bucks., The Sun Inn
 Ely Cathedral, Cambs.
 Exeter Cathedral, Devonshire
 Exeter Guildhall, Devonshire
 Flamstead Church, Herts.
 Folkestone, Kent, Ancient Cross
 Framsdon Church, Suffolk
 Fring Church, Norfolk
 Godalming, Surrey, White Hart Inn
 Godfrey de Bouillon, Castle of
 Godshill Church, I. of W.
 Gowthwaite Hall, Yorks.
 Great Snoring Church, Norfolk
 Guildford, Surrey, Castle Arch Cottage
 Guildford, Surrey, St. Mary's Church
 Haddington Bridge, N.B.
 Haddon Hall, Derbyshire
 Hampton Court Palace, Oak Panelling
 Haseley Church, Oxfordshire
 Haversham Church Tower, Bucks.
 Holywell, Flints., St. Winefride's Well
 Huntingfield Church, Suffolk
 Ilford, Essex, Roman Camp at Ilketshall Church, Suffolk
 Inglesham Church, Wilts.
 Kempley Ch., Gloucestershire
 Kenton Church, Devonshire, Rood Screen
 Kettlebaston Church, Suffolk
 Kildwick Church, Yorks.
 King's Norton, Worcestershire, The Saracen's Head
 Kingston, Herefordshire, Churchyard Cross
 Kingswood, Gloucestershire, Cistercian Abbey Gateway
 Liskeard Church Tower, Cornwall
 Linlithgow Palace, N.B.
 Lingwood Church, Norfolk
 Little Kimble Church, Bucks., Paintings in
 Little Washburn Church, Gloucestershire
 Little Wenham Church, Suffolk
 Llanthony Abbey Ruins, Monmouthshire

London, Old House, Acton, W.
 London, Ancient Buildings in
 London, City Churches
 London, Chelsea Hospital
 London, Holborn, The Bell Inn
 London, Kensington Palace
 London, Stratford-Bow, St.
 Mary's Church
 London, Westminster Im-
 provement Scheme
 London, Westminster, Blue
 Coat School, Caxton Street
 Long Melford Church, Suffolk
 Ludlow, Salop, Barnaby House
 Luton, Beds., Old Vicarage
 Lyminge Church, Kent
 Maiden Newton, Dorset, White
 Hart Inn
 Moreleigh Church, Devonshire
 Nether Hall, Roydon, Essex,
 Tudor Gateway
 Nettlestead Church, Suffolk
 Newbury, Berks., The Cloth Hall
 New Shoreham Church, Sussex
 Newton Abbot, Devonshire,
 Ancient Tower
 Norwich Cathedral
 Norwich, Old Houses
 Norwich, The Stranger's Hall
 Offenham, Worcestershire, An-
 cient Cottage
 Oxford, St. Bartholomew's
 Hospital

Padstow Church, Cornwall
 Paisley Abbey, N.B.
 Pembridge Bell Tower, Here-
 fordshire
 Pembrokeshire, Priory Remains
 Penderyn, Breconshire, St.
 Cynnog's Church
 Perry Barr Bridge, Staffs.
 Peterborough Cathedral
 Peterborough Town Hall
 Petersfield, Hants, Old Houses
 Market Place
 Philæ, Egypt
 Pirton Church, Herts.
 Pirton Church, Worcestershire
 Prittlewell, Essex, "Reynolds"
 Ranworth Church, Norfolk
 Rockenford Church, Devon-
 shire
 Rouen, Old Houses
 St. Kenelm's Church, Worcs.
 Salisbury, Wilts., The Joiners'
 Hall
 Salisbury, Wilts., Lake House
 Sampford Courtenay Church,
 Devonshire
 Sapperton Church, Lincs.
 Scarborough Castle, Yorks.
 Selby Abbey Church, Yorks.
 Sharow, Yorkshire, Ancient
 Cross
 Shernbourn Church, Norfolk
 Sibton Church, Suffolk

- Silk Willoughby Church, Lincs.
 Sizergh Castle, Westmoreland
 South Scarle Church, Notts.
 Stanion Church, Northants
 Stanway Church, Gloucestershire
 Stockton-on-Teme Church, Worcestershire
 Stoke Dry Church, Leicestershire
 Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, Star House
 Strata Florida Abbey, Flints.
 Stratford-upon-Avon, The Almshouses
 Stratford-upon-Avon, The Chapel
 Streeton Parva Church, Sussex
 Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire
 Teddington Church, Middlesex
 Terrington Church, Norfolk
 Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire
 Thetford, Norfolk, Town Hall
 Thwing Church, Yorks.
 Tintern Abbey, Monmouthshire
 Trimley Church, Suffolk.
 Trunch Church, Norfolk
 Turkdean Ch., Gloucestershire
 Twickenham Church Tower, Middlesex
 Udimore Church, Sussex
 Wakefield Cathedral, Yorkshire
 Walsoken Church, Norfolk
 West Stafford Church, Dorset
 Whitby Abbey, Yorks.
 Whitchurch, Middlesex, St. Lawrence Church
 Whitwick Ch., Leicestershire
 Witheycombe Rawleigh, Devonshire, Church of St. John-in-the-Wilderness
 Wolverhampton, Staffs., St. Peter's Church Tower
 Woodbridge Church, Suffolk
 Woodspring Priory, Weston-super-Mare Somerset
 Wroughton Church Tower, Wilts.
 Yarnton Church, Oxfordshire
 Yarpole Bell Tower, Herefordshire
 York, Holy Trinity, Micklegate Church

REPORT OF GENERAL MEETING.

THE General Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, June 16th, 1898, at Burlington House, W., the Society of Antiquaries courteously allowing the Society the use of its Lecture Hall.

The chair was taken by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Bristol.

The adoption of the report, which was taken as read, was moved by Lord Balcarres, M.P., who said it seemed to him that the work of the past year had been of an exceptionally interesting and important character. A subject of great interest to the members of the Society had been the proposal to sweep away one of the oldest parts of Westminster, but the Bill proposing this had been rejected by the House of Commons by a large majority. Another question had been the preservation of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, Oxford, one of the oldest foundations in the kingdom. Lord Balcarres concluded by urging that everybody who had an interest in the Society should do their best to introduce new members, and it was also necessary that a large number of Local Correspondents should be appointed, as there were a good number of counties where no Correspondents existed.

Mr. J. W. Lovibond seconded the motion, and in doing

so referred to the practical help given to him by the Society in putting a valuable Elizabethan house—Lake House, Salisbury—into a proper state of repair. He stated that when the house came into his possession he found it to be in a very bad state of repair indeed, and after considering various schemes he came to the conclusion that the recommendations of the Society were the most feasible. He therefore arranged that the house should be dealt with in accordance with its advice. This had now been done, and he was glad to say with the most satisfactory results. Where the core of the walls was disintegrated it had been most skilfully removed and replaced, piece by piece, with new material, thus rendering the building structurally sound and at the same time preserving the ancient work in its integrity.

Mr. H. E. Luxmoore, M.A., then read the following paper :

“OUR PURPOSES AND PROSPECTS.”

Your excellent Secretary has desired me to defend the aims of this Society, and you remember, I am sure, how the poet, Samuel Rogers, being archly accused by a certain sprightly lady of quality of having attacked her character in conversation, answered, “Attack you, dear Madam! why, I spend my whole life in *defending* you.” The sequel is that the lady ever afterwards avoided him in public, and in private declared him to be a very malignant man.

I would, therefore, begin by deprecating that ill-will

which professing defenders appear sometimes to incur ; and would secondly assure you that I do not consider our character to be altogether in need of defence. On the contrary, there are many signs that the principles we advocate are really taking hold and spreading in various and encouraging directions. Especially is this shown in the rise of numerous societies of a kindred bent. For indeed, I shall not be wrong in claiming any society as kindred which has for its object to make or keep this country of ours either interesting or beautiful ; and on the committees of many of these societies appear names which are also prominent on our roll.

Time would not allow even an imperfect enumeration. Let me mention, as an instance only, the Kyrle Society, and join with it the name of Miss Octavia Hill who is not only one of our members, but one of the best of all ringleaders in all plots for making our country not only beautiful and interesting, but also, if it may be, good. Then there is, I think, a society branching from our own for recording the monuments of London ; there are Selborne societies, and Pathway and Commons societies innumerable ; there is the Art for Schools Society ; there is the youngest society with the longest name, the Society for the Regulation of the Abuses of Advertising, which I claim like the others as being on our side because it is aimed against degrading and vulgarising our country. If the admirable Arundel Society no longer exists it is because its bent was foreign and its best work was already done ; we owe much to it, but even now I hear of diligent artists making for public

galleries faithful and beautiful record of ancient buildings. And there is the Guildford Society, which I am sure will, if carefully handled, become not only a very godsend to that lovely neighbourhood, but also a pattern for many other societies all over the country. There is not, thank heaven, in England a single town that has not something one would wish preserved; and what can be better work than to get together a small circle of men who will note down these worthier buildings (and natural objects also) and give advice when they are threatened, not petulantly, not menacingly, but as part of a community who care for their neighbourhood and would help their neighbours. And there is the National Trust for preserving places of historic interest. Am I wrong in saying that these societies do shew a growth which is and ought to be a real encouragement to us? And especially I would underline the fact that their strength does not lie in a few rich and refined dilettanti: they are popular societies; they connect all classes; they have wealthy and they have famous members, men of light and leading; but their strength is in the middle class, which is the main factor in the welfare of England. Nor is their aim narrow; even if the cyclist's jealousy of pathway-encroachment is selfish, so is certainly not the vigilance of the preservers of commons, like Lord Meath and Mr. Bryce. Yes, I see on all sides scattered signs of a general stirring of interest in these things and a wish to made effective that regret which everyone feels or affects to feel at some fresh inroad of the vulgar spirit of destruction, but which it

needs courage and zeal to translate from words to action, though now the translation is increasingly easy owing to the existence and activity of our own and kindred societies.*

And here, though I know it is unwise to mention party politics, I cannot avoid saying how strangely it appears to me that so much of the best work of this eminently conservative and preservative society of ours has been done by those who would themselves abhor the title of conservative—would indeed be satisfied with nothing less than (not liberal but) radical. Speaking as one born and bred in conservative traditions, I sometimes feel that it is not to our credit that we should so often fail to carry that title into matters that are not concerned with votes and office, but do immediately keep up and illustrate the patriotic and august ideals of our splendid British inheritance. I suppose there is no one to whom this society owes so much as to William Morris. Politically, William Morris would not like to be called a conservative; and I am too loyal to his memory to use of him here and now, a word he would not like; but I do say that every lasting influence of his delightful character, and every effective achievement of his attractive genius, was rooted in ancient art, in traditional beauty, in the pathetic glory of olden days; and that all his rebellion was against the new vulgarity, the new mean-

* The co-ordination of these societies with a Parliamentary Committee by Mr. Bryce, the Duke of Westminster and others, on June 24th, since these words were read, is a still more encouraging event, which ought not to remain unnoted.

ness, the *fin-de-siècle* Tammany Hall. That a man of that temper and calibre should work a society which appeals to the front bench even of the present conservative House of Commons is surely, my Lord, a very significant and encouraging fact; so much so, that I hope to be forgiven now for digressing thus far in a dangerous direction.

One word about the National Trust, and I shall be able to quit this part of my subject. It would be easy, no doubt, to throw ridicule on the present achievements of their ambitious scheme. To me the encouraging thing is that such an ambition should venture to declare itself. It draws its lineage, as I feel sure, from that forlorn and noble dream of one of our greatest living masters—if life it can be called which shuts him from us whom he used to charm, instruct and stimulate when I was younger. Through the perseverance of one of the most faithful of his friends it comes abroad, and is not ashamed to declare a programme which in no other country could be contemplated for a moment without State aid, but which in Great Britain seems really feasible and has made good beginning by unaided enterprise in Great George Street, Westminster.

These then are the signs of a growing intelligence, interest and care which encourage me to the not too cheerful hope that at this rate of progress we shall at no distant date be as a nation fully aware of the value of our ancient landmarks and eager to preserve them—just then, when the last ancient landmark shall have finally disappeared.

So far, I have indicated some reasons for hope and confidence. I propose now to speak about our objects, and to conclude with some specification of our chief impediments.

The anniversaries of this and last year lend themselves singularly to my appeal. Last year we celebrated our longest reign, and it is no conventional insincerity to say, the reign of the best and most deserving monarch in modern annals. This year we are called back with an insistence and claim which can hardly be paralleled in any European nation, to the anniversary of a king, who, so far as we can see through the mists of time, was as good and as blameless as Queen Victoria, and who, coming to problems more simple and critical than those of our own day, may fairly be said to have been even more important as a builder of the English nation. A millenary is a great interval, even in a nation's existence, and Alfred was a great king, both good and glorious; and rightly do we profess our pride in honouring him. But how are we to honour King Alfred? Shall we commemorate him at his tomb? Shall we raise a shrine over his bones? We agree to do so, and find to our dismay and confusion that in this very century we dug up his tomb, threw away his bones, and used his coffin to mend the roads. You think this is an incredible exaggeration? It is, I believe, strictly true.

"Three stone coffins", says Murray's *Guide to Hampshire*, "discovered at the same time, and on good grounds believed to be those of Alfred himself, Alswitha his queen, and his son Edward the Elder, were broken

up to mend the roads and their contents huddled into a pit in the Bridewell garden."

Now I take this tragic disaster just as an instance, and you cannot but admit it to be a very distressing one, of the way in which from our pleasant vices the irony of Providence prepares a scourge for our own back. All over England graves have been and still are desecrated. Monuments are cleared out of chancels, tombstones out of churchyards, to suit the taste of a pedantic parson or churchwarden connoisseur. In King Alfred's own city, where they are now so loud, an excellent dean cleared the tombstones from the Close and you may see them ranged round the border like chaperons in a ball-room. In a city of quite singular beauty, where, in spite of protest, the old houses are one by one making room for deplorable fabrics, it is judicial that one day, when we prepare to celebrate our first millenary, we should find that we have had the misfortune to throw away our hero for the sake of a county gaol in which the perpetrators richly deserved themselves to find a lodging. But no, indeed: they deserved nothing of the sort; they were only doing the usual thing in the usual way: they meant no harm, but they were without reflection, without care, without veneration—only in this case the moral is more sharply enforced. What they threw away as valueless proves to be the ashes of our national hero. But there is no bit of Saxon string course or Roman masonry which has not the same kind of claim on us, though of course in a far less degree; and there is no doubt that some day we shall

similarly feel regret for its disturbance, or, worse still, be unaware of it when it is past recall. It seems valueless at present, utterly—only some absurd faddist makes a fuss; smile at his impertinence and away with it, and find in fifty years your great and irreparable mistake. The chapel which it is my privilege to attend, was once adorned with a series of English frescoes, of such beauty and importance that if preserved they would have held their own even among the great painted churches of North Italy. I can remember Sir Gilbert Scott telling me that he himself saw the workmen chiselling them off the wall. There is now absolutely nothing left but a patch visible among the perky pinnacles of the meagre stalls that replaced them, save what is hidden behind the permanent woodwork. Is it not enough to make one weep—or laugh? And yet this was done with sincerely religious and conscientious reasons. Of half the devastation, mere “taste” is the cause: the taste of an irresponsible squire, of a half-educated incumbent, of a rector’s wife. Why I know a case where the rood beam of a stately church, with the marks of St. Mary and St. John still there, was removed at the bidding of a maiden aunt. I have heard of workmen in possession of coins cut from the fringe of the confined body of Edward the Confessor. I have been told by a young soldier that he had the tooth of the Pharaoh of the Exodus in his waistcoat pocket. Who has not heard of a royal physician stealing from the very coffin the severed vertebra and grey-streaked imperial of the first Charles

—stealing it before the very eyes of the regent Prince, and wrapping it in an envelope, handed by the ready subservience of the very Dean in whose charge were those buried dead. Such things are impossible now—perhaps: if so, it is largely thanks to us. But what I am urging on you is that a thousand things which we are doing to-day with a light heart, as a matter of course, will in another fifty years be seen by our successors to be no less deplorable than these past outrages seem to us.

What is the moral, then? The moral is preservation—or rather, it is something that goes deeper than that: the moral is reverence. There is, indeed, no rule, as “do not,” “touch not.” But there is that inborn feeling of reverence which I venture to say is in individuals the outcome of gentle breeding, and in nations the evidence and sign manual of high inheritance from the past and great destinies for the future. Vulgarity has been described as a deadness of soul which limits our appreciations to the violent or the sensual, but is incapable of dealing with what is delicate, or imaginative, or spiritual. By grave discipline and noble ancestry an individual or a people may extend their range of sensitiveness to ideals and affections as invisible to the barbarian and the self-made settler as the structure of the skeleton to eyes unendowed with the X rays, or the refinements of language to the company at the bar of the gin palace. The lower forms of human society have, one knows, their own rough efficiency and use; but of a people that is born to, and is worthy of, the

heritage of a great history, more is required. Their life is not limited to struggle for mere material needs, they do not live by bread alone, nor do they want to; they have reached a point at which they do not count that life which has nothing imaginative, nothing historical, nothing beautiful; they live by admiration, hope and love; and they are thankful they are not Pagans suckled in a creed outworn, just because to be Christians or to be Englishmen fills them with aspirations and devotions more ennobling and more precious (they will say) than has yet fallen to the heritage of any human being. I pause a moment here, lest I be betrayed into exaggeration; but I feel that it is not so, and I speak soberly when I say that since the world began there has been no higher destiny than that committed to us now. Well, then, what can we do for England if England has done this for us? We are ready enough, I know, to fight for England and perhaps to die for England; but to hand on to our children the England our fathers have given us, to stir a finger to keep the records of it, to preserve any single relic of it if two-pence-halfpenny can be saved by parting with it, this seems sometimes beyond us altogether. And yet a nation's greatness is shown partly in this way. It is nothing but sober truth to say so; Athens, for instance, was not wanting in audacious humour and an eye to the main chance; but does anyone suppose that Persia would have been conquered at Salamis if the Athenians had been plastering their Parthenon with advertisements of cheap fish? No! it would have shown meanness of character, selfish-

ness and deficiency in the sense of honour ; and it was just in so far as their temper was the opposite of this that they came out as conquerors and saved Europe. Horatio Nelson was not without a strain of personal vanity and weakness ; but can you believe that he and Cuthbert Collingwood would have broken the line or fought as they did, if the sails of the " Victory " and " Royal Sovereign " had blazoned the advertisements of quack pills ? Shakspeare knew a thing or two about human souls in crises, and Shakspeare says that in the hour of battle the ghosts of our dead sins sit heavy on our souls and weigh us " down to ruin, shame and death " ; but it is even more true of our meannesses and our pettifoggings. Pettifoggers cannot win battles or rule empire. The man that painted pills on the wrecked hull of the " Foudroyant " ought to have been—tarred and feathered, I was going to say—but I do say that if that outrage was not fatal to that pill factory as a going concern, so much the worse for us, while for Mr. Beecham the only chance I see is to repent and bequeath his fortune to the S.P.A.B.

First, then, I advocate the cause of the Preservation of Ancient Buildings on the ground of History.

I have been this afternoon dealing in so many common-places, platitudes in fact, that I feel I ought here to change for a while to detail, and show you how subtly and in what innumerable ways our buildings are to us the most precious of historic documents. It were easy to do so ; I remember a paper read to you by Mr. J. J. Stevenson, which did it excellently ; or you have only

to go to the nearest church, and unless it is a restored church, you find every inch of it, from the weather-cock on the top to the Roman tile in the foundation, every inch of it, from the great pier on which the tower rests to the mason's mark on a stone of the porch, is just pure record, from which you can tell when it was built and how it has fared, and what have been the fortunes of the parish and the great and little families of the country-side for every century since. If you don't care about that, or if you can't see it, you will, perhaps, apply for a faculty, and with the help of a tasty young contractor from a country town wipe all this record bodily out. I go, for instance, from my own house, and twenty yards to the left I find myself in an old back court; on one side is a venerable building of buttressed stone; twenty-five feet up the stone stops short, the wall plate is continued in brick, the windows being clumsily finished with a plastered cove. "So ugly," says one, "let us restore it and finish it in stone." "So untidy," says another, "let us reface the stone and bring it up to date." "But," says the historian, "ugly or untidy is not the point; this is my province, this is history: between that stone and that brick comes all the history of the Wars of the Roses. Where the stone stops, there falls the House of Lancaster; then the Yorkist Edward tried to suppress the whole foundation, to transfer it to Windsor. That hurried brickwork means Provost Westbury's sturdy defence of it against the usurper, and by altering that you are falsifying history and destroying the ties that bind you to the past fortunes of Great

Britain. Surely, sir, I need not labour points like these; the history of each generation is written on the face of this our country in their own handiwork, and that we have no right lightly to efface, unless it be what we are ashamed of, and even then, perhaps, it may be better left, for warning or for penance.

And secondly, as history requires our faithful guarding, so must we consider the claim of beauty.

For even when work is bad and incongruous there is in the delicate ministration of time, a power of harmonising, a gradual softening, a kindly weathering, which strangely redeems ugliness; but when work is not bad nor incongruous, then what is done for it by the charm of age, let those tell who have more power than I. There comes to my mind just now a certain park wall near the river, bordering a public road; it is absolutely nothing but a brick wall, a well-built red brick wall with a dog-tooth of corner bricks for cornice, and a sloping ridge of the same. There is no house in sight, though boughs of cedar and Scotch fir lean over it here and there, and great solid cumulus clouds of glistening ivy make the air hum in summer with the bees and wasps that haunt the black-bunched fruit. For the sake of that wall visitors have stayed in the village and taken friends there, and have painted it and have sworn it was the loveliest village in the county and this the best thing in it. It was furred from top to bottom in most places with a delicate grey-green mossy lichen such as grows on northern trees—the green of aquamarines, the blue of pale opal, the texture of soft fleeces in sunlight like Holman Hunt's "Strayed

Sheep": cool in shadows from the brooding branches, flushed here and there as the brick showed through, or streaked with orange and gold by other lichens—and this nothing in the world but a good brick wall in wholesome air, left quite alone and in absolutely good repair. Last autumn I heard the place had been bought, and the wall stripped and repointed, very possibly in black cement, and, for aught I know, crested with bottle glass. Do we care whether we have beautiful things to look at or not? Well, some do: but there are many things that most of us prefer: we prefer especially comfort, and money, which means comfort; we prefer convention; and the tasty young man from the town is always at hand to tell us that lichen is not correct, that black-pointing is indispensable. Let us, too, take warning. We are not infallible; think what things have been done even by some of those who have helped our Society and fought our battles. I have myself done things that make me hot when I think of them in sleepless nights. We who swore by Gothic have learnt to love Renaissance, too; we who drew the line at 1625 have learnt to slide it forward from Stuart to Hanover, from Hanover to Empire, perhaps from Empire to Victorian. Whatever form of art has honestly expressed the character of its generation and has been wrought with care and self-sacrifice, must claim protection: it may be ugly—we may think it so—the best judges may declare it so, but it is history, and if we are true to our principles we have to think once, twice, thrice about it before we remove it.

And this brings me to the main point of my apology. We are said to be fanatical faddists who would cumber the course of the world with outworn rubbish, and the charges against us may be formulated comprehensively under three heads :

We shrilly resist all improvement.

We believe nothing to be good but what is antique.

And we would let the antique fall to ruin rather than mend it.

On these points let me freely admit that our opponents are sometimes reasonably irritated ; but if they look closer they will see that we too have some reason. For instance, " we hold nothing good but what is antique." Surely it is absurd to say this of a Society founded and first managed by William Morris, a man by whose inventions, it is not too much to say, that all the decorative arts in England have been raised and stimulated, and whose enterprise has, through the length and breadth of the country, left no kind of equipment for civilised life unhelped. He has won a place among the great designers of all times, and his society is not likely to be narrowly pedantic. But we do say, and we say with reason, that in the old days good art was engrained in and natural to the people, so that everything they did had some of that individual character. I do not know of anything, however humble and commonplace, that has come down to us from those times that has not some merit. Let me give an obvious instance—the harness of cart-horses and the whips of carters. You know them, black with brass rings in pleasant gradation

of length, simply admirable to look at, and perfectly unconscious. The borders of the old Witney blankets—they are gone; and the common brown pie-dishes with yellow glaze inside and a traditional pattern, which were always in our market when I was a boy. Those are just instances of what I mean by natural art. Everything, from cart-whip to cathedral, was good of a kind, and now (we say) that faculty, habit, or tradition is gone. In fact, we don't care for it now; we have now a different interest; we have changed it for mechanical work. I am ready, perhaps, to admit our engineering to be more useful and in many ways quite as admirable. Posterity will speak of our machinery perhaps as warmly as we speak of Greek sculpture, or Venetian painting, or Norman Gothic. But while this instinctive and natural art was alive there was no need for not tampering with buildings; to add to an old building or alter it was right enough when the natural substitute would be as good or better. Now it is not so; and feeling this, we have to care for the relics of it as heirlooms. We do not say nothing new is beautiful, but we do say the new is not sure to be beautiful, and if the old one is, the old must be preserved and the new experiment kept apart from it. Surely that is not fanatical.

Next it is said we let the old go to ruin rather than touch it. Why, we exist for the very purpose of preserving it. Repair, not restore—repair, not restore. Restore means strictly to take away something there is, in order to put something we think there was; and that is wrong only because even if it was there and was worth

aving, we can't put it back. We can at best only put a dead imitation of it. The analogy of a picture is quite sound. The background, say, of an old portrait is dark and in places it is flaking off. I should not hesitate to have the bare spots painted down; it is mainly mechanical work. But supposing the face flakes off, then I know what to do to fill in the features afresh both destroys its historical value as a portrait, and injures its artistic value as a picture. I must preserve what I can, and be content with that. I have a valued portrait of Northcote, soon after it was painted the housemaid put the handle of her broom through the neck. The canvas was drawn together, and an artist patched over the join, I think rightly; still it is a diminished picture. The loss and the gain have to be balanced in such cases, but it was repairing, not restoring.

Similarly in a building, what is merely mechanical must be renewed; what is necessary for support must be boldly introduced, what is artistic must be kept jealously guarded, but not renewed. The mistake we often make is to suppose that mere ashlar and mere bricks cannot be artistic: the quality of the old brick, its shape, the way it is laid, the very tooling on the stones, is in some degree artistic—has its own character, cannot be altogether reproduced. Frankly introduce then what is necessary for support, but do not suppose that you can, by merely copying the old design, restore what is missing or work that is not mechanical.

It would be prudent here perhaps to ignore the controversy raised last year over the Peterborough West

Porch: but it would not be honest. I know that in some quarters the action of the Society then gave offence and alienated opinions I should like to conciliate. To me it seemed to be so entirely a professional and technical question, that I had no more right to form an opinion than many of those who confidently scolded us. On one hand our experts assured us that by working in from behind we might secure the wall-face undisturbed; on the other hand very eminent architects assured us after inspection that this was impossible. In this case who was to decide? Clearly the authorities who are responsible for the Cathedral: and, rightly or wrongly, they decided against us. Those who took down the wall said it could not have been preserved; and those who thought it could were refused any further facilities for inspection. If there was on our side competent professional authority, I think we were right in trying to get it considered. If we said or did anything to imply that the decision should be in any hands but those of the Cathedral authorities, we were wrong. I am all for increasing responsibility, not for frittering it away by public opinion. I do not say and I do not think that we did this, but if we were to do so, we should put ourselves wrong. In this case we did offend some whose sympathy we wished for; but we recollected only too clearly this: first, the fallibility of ecclesiastical authorities, proved how disastrously! how cruelly! in that county by the treatment of St. Alban's. Is there anyone now in England who cares at all intelligently for architecture, or unintelligently for beauty, who does

not deplore that irremediable vandalism? So if ecclesiastical bodies are not always readily trusted in the diocese, the fault is not ours. And secondly, we recollected the fallibility of architects at the head of their profession. It has been my happy fortune to know more than one of the most eminent of these—men of true religious feeling, of real culture, of unselfish and eager desire to do their duty in preservation, and men in advance of their time; and yet I must honestly say that in the restored work of some of these most eminent and devoted men, I, can find little to interest, much for regret. And if, therefore, we conclude that fifty years hence we may look back with the same dismay and regret on the verdicts and the restorations of their successors, again I say the fault is not ours in questioning them now. The desire of the ecclesiastic for a spick and span place of worship is natural, and natural too the irritation caused in a tip-top architect by a leaning wall; we must allow for this as professional, and we must not overstrain but rather understrain our principles to meet them wherever we can. But we must not surrender. To pronounce on the Peterborough imbroglio is therefore beyond my province. One may conclude by saying (1) that an original wall-front is worth preserving if you can preserve it; (2) to take down and rebuild, even if you can use much of the old stone, will not give you quite the same result; (3) an upright wall is also desirable if you can get it without destroying the wall-plate, and if not you must balance the loss and gain without ignoring the former; (4) when a wall has got seriously out of

the perpendicular there is grave blame resting on the guardians of it; and (5) in that case the blame is not neutralised, but emphasised, by the destruction having now become unavoidable. Indeed it is only too true that most of the ruin has been caused by continuous neglect alternating with wholesale substitution. We protest against the substitution: but we also protest against the neglect, we are always protesting against it—we are the Society for Preserving Ancient Buildings, and we deserve our name.

Let me end by a few words to those who can help us most.

First, there is the Government. Sir Robert Hunter pointed out in the *Nineteenth Century Review* for April, that in all other countries the Government takes charge of and protects buildings and remains which embody its history and mark its progress. Great Britain alone is destitute of any official record of its possessions, and in spite of the efforts of Sir John Lubbock, cares for little beyond certain earthworks and megalithic monuments. This is unfair enough, but sins of omission would be tolerable if Government did not so often set the example of debased and unsightly building. There is hardly a town where, at some time or other, it does not happen that Government has to build a post office, a barrack or a school under the Charity Commission. Cannot something be done to secure that these buildings shall not destroy and outrage attractive features in the old streets: that they shall not be incongruous, and vulgar, and bad? It is not a question of expense, the buildings

are often expensive enough, but it is that they are bad and incongruous. Is it impossible that architects should be employed by the Board of Works who would go down and see with sympathy the surroundings and set an example of building in the local style, and leave a pattern to local builders of how to improve a town, rather than of how to deface and blot it?

And the same applies to great firms—brewers, bankers, insurance companies, store companies, and the like, who have houses of business in many towns. How much may be done in such positions, is well shown by the London Board Schools; thanks to the original architect of which, scarcely a district of London is without a building, which, to my mind, reconciles newness and practical requirements with good design.

I want then, first our Government, and next our large commercial or municipal firms, to employ architects who deserve the name; and next, we must capture the architects: for as long as there are so many bad architects who care nothing for association, bodies of practical men will be sure to get into bad hands. Why should a building of that kind be put into such hands at all? Why should "the local man" instinctively set down everything basely? I asked that question a few days ago with regard to plans for an important building in my own town. The cupola ventilators, for instance, well, you know what they are in business premises—why should they not be carefully designed? The answer was, "Oh, that is the pattern which is supplied us by the trade!" Quite so: but why

should the trade naturally supply bad, not good? Have schools of design, and Art teaching, and South Kensington, and technical education, done really nothing for us at all yet? That is what I want to know. When struggling artists are literally swarming in our midst, can nothing be done to get hold of the ordinary trade pattern?

I confess what I should most like would be a propaganda among local builders. Our society has done less in that way than I at one time hoped for. Lack of funds—lack of funds is conclusive. Oh, that someone would endow half a dozen missionary vans to tour the country—a good lecturer, a set of lantern slides, something in the style of that charming and amusing book, *Pugin's Contrasts*; photographs on the screen, first of St. John's almshouse and the old Guildhall, explaining why they are so good and delightful, and then of the Mayor's new Emporium and the Independent Chapel, explaining why they are vulgar and vile; fly-leaves of practical directions like those our secretary can supply, distributed gratis and sent to all the plumbers in the place, and a letter or two in the local paper to drive it home.

And lastly, the clergy. In your presence, my Lord, might I, with bated breath, venture to suggest that some lectures on the care of churches and church antiquities might well form part of the course at theological colleges. Not a mile from this I can show you silversmiths who have shelves on shelves entirely filled with English patens and chalices. How come by? It is easy to guess. I was once asked by a rector to sub-

scribe to a new chalice for his church; he said that there was an ante-reformation chalice in use, which was not the right shape; the silver would be melted down for a new one, and 15s. 6d. would be allowed for it. That is the way in which things hallowed by ancestral associations of the tenderest kind can still be treated. Why, the whole history of the English Reformation could be traced and recovered by the shapes of the parish chalices. And what is true of chalices is truer of churches. I have sympathy with those excellent men who want everything the right shape. Still more do I admit that a church is first for worship; but I assert that true religion is nourished, not starved, by having its roots planted in ancestral association. It is more comfortable, not less comfortable, to take the cup which for 300 years our fathers took (and not less so because there is a whole history in its shape) than to take the correctest new machine-made piece of goods that was ever turned out by an enterprising firm of general church-furnishers. I speak of the chalice as an example only. In the same way, when you have cemented and scraped and trimmed and bedizened your church, and put in your stained deal and encaustic tile and ornamental ridge, and all the rest—what have you done? Have you made it worshipful? Alas! you have shredded away all that was reverend, and nearly all that was beautiful. It is smug, dull, mechanical, dead of respectability. Think, for instance, of the glass: there is a passion for stained glass nowadays, and some very beautiful stained glass is made. But I

worshipped for sixteen years once in a village church, where the play of opalescent colour through the common clear glass of the old unstained windows was a never-failing pleasure ; and I have worshipped now more than sixteen years in a building where glass even better than that has been all swept away to make room for stained windows, a glance at any one of which is like being hit between the eyes by a bruiser. Once encaustic tile was the fashion ; marble came next ; now it is stained glass ; and some day we shall awake to find the chief merit of stained glass to be the silvery clear glass of it, like that in the lower ranges of the glorious great East window at Gloucester, and find that much of the old clear glass we are turning out from village churches has this quality, and that it is absent from what we are putting in. Then the irons of the window are cut away for it. You might almost as well cut away the tracery at once ; a century ago they did cut away the tracery for the glass. In St. George's Chapel I can recollect its being put back, and Sir Benjamin West's window being removed. A century hence I hope much of our stained glass will have been removed, but can the irons be put back ? Go into Westminster Abbey for twenty minutes, and then say honestly whether there is any glass in the building more beautiful than the white glass in the untouched clerestory windows.

These and other things make me wish to secure the goodwill of the clergy for preservation, and that not only of the church, but of the parish in which they are often the sole educated resident. Perhaps I have been

unlucky, but when I have seen an unusually bad building, obtruded on an old-fashioned village green, too often have I been told, "That is the village club, and it was put there by the parson." Oh, I know the difficulty about money, and I have lived with clergy all my life, and I am not speaking lightly of their sacrifices and their labours. What I feel is, that so often it never strikes them that the beauty and the associations of the place are a great organ of education for their people. That is so, is it not?—else were the chief power lost of the place I live in, the power of making minds more reverent, hearts more affectionate, souls more aspiring, by living in the midst of the beauty of ancestral association.

The Chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Lecturer, said he had never listened to a paper with deeper feelings of interest, and he heartily agreed with all it contained. It was very learned, very pungent, very conciliatory, very charming and full of right feeling. He only wished it could be printed and spread broadcast throughout the land, as the amount of good it would do would be incalculable.

His Lordship stated he had read the papers of the Society and found in them nothing with which he was not in entire sympathy, and he thought it was the duty of all those who possibly could to help the Society in its most laudable work, and concluded by expressing a wish to become a member of the Society.

Mr. Essex Reade seconded the proposal, which was carried with acclamation.

On the motion of Mr. J. Carruthers, C.E., seconded by Mr. Emery Walker, a vote of thanks to the Society of Antiquaries for the use of the room was agreed to.

Mr. Philip Norman, F.S.A., in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, called attention to the City Churches, and expressed a fervent hope that they might be permitted to remain for the benefit of this and future generations.

Mr. G. Rutter Fletcher, F.S.A., seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

The Chairman having replied, the proceedings terminated.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

Statements of Receipts and Payments for the year 1897.

Dr. Cr.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance at 31st Dec., 1896:—			
As per last statement	2 13 1½	By Payments during the year 1897:—	
To Receipts during the year 1897:—		Printing	31 13 1
Annual Subscriptions	271 14 6	Office Expenses, including Secretary's Travelling Expenses	30 19 4½
Donations	16 3 0	Expenses in removing to and repairing new Office	18 4 0
Received for Travelling Expenses in visiting Churches, etc.	11 13 0	Members Travelling Expenses	40 10 10
	299 10 6	Secretary's Salary (one quarter owing)	90 0 0
		Clerk's Salary	58 0 0
		Rent of Office	18 0 0
			287 7 3½
		By Cash at London and Midland Bank 31st Dec. 1897	8 18 1
		By Cash at Office	5 18 3
			14 16 4
			£302 3 7½

Owing to Secretary £30.

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct,

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Auditor

27th April, 1898.

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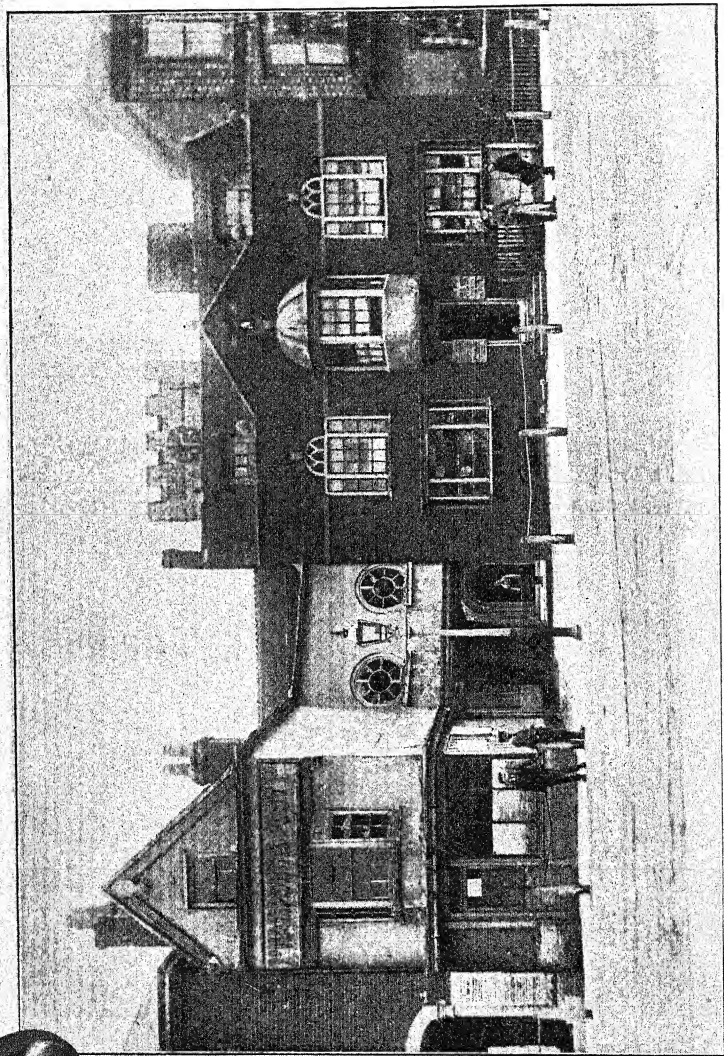
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SHOWING TWO OLD HOUSES LATELY DESTROYED

From a photograph by Mr. Blain of Petersfield

Society for the Protection
of Ancient Buildings

THE

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

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JUNE, 1899

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India—Major J. B. KEITH.

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

A CHAPTER OF ITS EARLY HISTORY.

LAST year the Society held its twenty-first anniversary. It seems fitting that, having thus established itself as one of the institutions of the century, the origin and early history of the Society should now be recorded; as a memorial, in the first place, of the work of the founders, some of whom are now dead, but also lest the extraordinary state of things which provoked thoughtful and cultivated men to band together twenty-two years ago for the defence of the ancient buildings of the country, should come to be forgotten. Nothing passes so readily out of the minds of a people as the follies it has committed, and we have now a new generation which hardly remembers the time when a priceless building might be sacrificed and *no one* raise a protest.

The history of the Society is part of the history of the great revival in the study of mediæval architecture already begun before the close of the eighteenth century but only acquiring definite direction and purpose in the nineteenth, when it was aided and greatly strengthened by another revival not less important in the intellectual history of the time: we refer, of course,

to the change in religious opinion which has had such an enormous influence on the æsthetics of public worship. The desire for greater decorum in the services of the Church and the disposition to recur to mediæval forms of worship aided enormously the revival of Gothic architecture for ecclesiastical purposes. Before this all styles were considered equally suitable for church building—Classic of the Erechtheum and the Parthenon, or Italian of the Renaissance, or whatever the taste of the patron or committee decreed but, dating from the middle of the century Gothic only was allowed, and the study of mediæval buildings became the necessary preparation for an architect's career. This study, delightful in itself, was not, however, the exclusive privilege of architects. It had an attraction for all who could feel an interest in the arts, life, religion and history of the Middle Ages, of which it was the unfailing exponent, and it became the most popular of refined enjoyments. Archæological societies were founded in all parts of the kingdom, and in 1846 the Ecclesiological Society was formed, out of the Cambridge Camden Society, for the special study of matters relating to architecture, ritual, Church music, wall painting, stained glass and whatever might minister to the greater beauty and dignity of churches. It would have been strange if the interest thus excited in mediæval art and its monuments had not led to the desire to free our old churches, more especially, from the degradation into which they had been allowed to fall since the beginning of the eighteenth century.

The state of these churches, cathedral and parochial, must have been in the early part of this century a disgrace to all concerned. So general was the condition of dilapidation and decay, that it appeared to Dickens as the characteristic note of an ancient building. In the *Old Curiosity Shop*—a title markedly suggestive of the antiquarian taste which in 1840 was beginning to affect even novel readers—he makes the kindly old clergyman say to little Nell, who desired the vacant post of caretaker and cicerone to his church, that “he would rather see her dancing on the green than sitting in the shadow of our mouldering arches,” and by that he meant no disrespect to the church nor reproach to himself nor to the churchwardens for permitting the arches to moulder or the pavements to “crumble.” He was but expressing surprise at the strangeness of her request, and there was no exaggeration in the contrast between her fresh youth and the nature of the occupation she desired. Decay was the predominant note of ancient buildings sixty years ago, as some of us can remember, and indeed our memories need not go back so far. Read the description again, it is evidently studied from the fact. “The very light coming through the ancient windows seemed old and grey.” “The air was redolent of earth and mould”; we know that, too, as well as the “broken pavements,” the “rotten beams,” the “sinking arches, the sapped and mouldering walls” and “the stately tomb on which no epitaph remained.”

This picture of decay is not fictitious we may be sure, for the author could not wantonly have so depreciated

the place where his much-tried heroine was to end her days. He was preparing it for her as a refuge, hopeless certainly—for she must needs die—but beautiful, and with the sentiment of enduring repose, which ancient buildings always inspire.

It was, then, in such like churches, despoiled and verging towards ruin, that the archæological societies began their work of measuring, drawing, noting; and it was, moreover, out of the sadness which these buildings could not fail to excite, that was born the desire to atone for so much neglect and, with this, the enthusiasm for restoration which so fatally misled the ecclesiologists of that time.

The motive of the first restorers was excellent, but they cannot be absolved from the blame of proceeding without sufficient knowledge, or of acting rashly as well as ignorantly. They relied on their archæology; it was indeed this new-found interest in the art of past times which lay at the root of the restoration mania, but their archæology was insufficient. To make bad worse, they supplemented it by theories and prejudices which were utterly erroneous. These invented theories were frightfully mischievous when applied to realities. One of the most loudly proclaimed was the assertion that plaster and whitewash were unknown before "church-warden days," the truth being that ancient buildings *from the earliest times* have been finished with stucco or plaster, which was invariably whitened. Regardless of this easily ascertained fact, the restorers hacked off the plaster from rubble walls, and pointed the

rude masonry with raised joints. It is incredible that they could have destroyed so many coats of ancient plaster without seeing the beautiful finishing coat of pure white which was never omitted in ancient work, and to neglect the evidence it gave was inexcusable. The raised joints on which they prided themselves as something very correct were a pure barbarism. A striking example for Londoners of the results of this odious treatment of ancient plastered walls is the once beautiful White Chapel in the Tower. It is now a horror, a thing neither beautiful nor interesting, not even to the theorists by whom the outrage was once thought a vindication of sincerity against unreality.

The great Tower at St. Albans was originally coated with plaster. An old monk speaks of it with admiration—"it looked as if made of a single stone." It was an ancient ideal, this, of giving a huge mass the appearance of a monolith; witness the carefully squared blocks of marble, set with joints so fine as scarcely to be perceived, of which certain ancient temples were built, and the express words of the author of *Hermas*, who, in the second century, describes with the very words afterward employed by the monk the tower built to typify the Church. Whether Sir Gilbert Scott was aware of these and the other evidences of ancient practice or whether he cared nothing for them, they were equally disregarded and the plaster was removed, to satisfy a new and quite different ideal. The old red brick of which the tower is built is truly fine material but, pointed with cement, it is gruesome.

Another prejudice which operated with frightful destructiveness upon our ancient buildings was that which preferred one mediæval style and despised another. Mr. John Stevenson, in a paper read before the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1877, tells of one parson who destroyed the Perpendicular work of his church because "he hated Perpendicular," and of another who compelled his architect to replace the very fine Perpendicular east window of his church by a pseudo fourteenth century one, for the same reason.

At the first general meeting of the Society, the Rev. T. W. Norwood, said, "I heard lately of a church in North Lincolnshire which was restored throughout in the most approved fashion, except that the very ancient Norman, or perhaps Saxon, chancel arch was for a time spared, at the suggestion of the architect, on account of *its great curiosity and interest*. It remained not long, for the young ladies of the Parsonage could not bear to see it. They found it wholly out of keeping and frightfully disfiguring *to the new work*, and so it was taken down. My informant, a neighbouring clergyman, said it was one of the most elaborately adorned chancel arches in Lincolnshire." At Dunsfold, near Godalming, the chancel arch was destroyed and rebuilt "in more appropriate style," under the belief that it was of the fifteenth century, all the rest of the church being obviously of the thirteenth. In truth it also was of the thirteenth, original, and admirably designed to give size and space to a tiny church. The destruction of that arch has ruined for ever a masterpiece of well-balanced

design. At Leek, in Staffordshire, the chancel of the old Church was pulled down and a new one built "in keeping with the general age of the building." The old chancel was the original one; it had a later but very fine east window, wide and panelled for those gigantic figures of saints which the later glass painters so loved to make: a fine specimen of moorland architecture, very little damaged except for a poor slate roof. The new chancel of superfine Gothic neither accords with the masculine style of the old church, nor has it any redeeming merit of its own.

The records of the Society and everyone's experience might supply endless examples of such like ignorant destruction. Even Sir Gilbert Scott, who was not blameless in this matter, acknowledged in 1862 that "the most interesting features of our old churches are being weeded out" (the very word for this presumptuous discrimination between bad and good) "through carelessness, prejudice, or deliberate barbarism," and the Royal Institute of British Architects admitted that "many districts had been robbed of their antiquities through rash and unskilful operations in restoration."*

Among the rashest of these operations, that of reducing an ancient building to the modern ideal of mechanical regularity and neatness has "robbed" us of the most ancient, and often the most precious, of our antiquities. According to this modern standard of perfection a chipped or weatherworn stone is an unbear-

* "Conservation of Ancient Monuments or General Advice to the Promoters of the Restoration of Ancient Buildings," published by the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1865.

able defect ; the intrinsic value of the art which shaped it, the evident signs of antiquity it bears, the historical value of the "document," are as nothing if it lacks the one perfection a Philistine taste can conceive, that of smoothness, regularity and completeness. It was reported of an architect noted for his extensive practice as a restorer that, being asked by the clerk of works what course should be followed with regard to certain capitals and other damaged parts of an ancient building then undergoing restoration, he replied : " I suppose as an archæologist I ought to say, let them alone, but as an architect I would rather say make them good." The writer of this paper when in Venice in 1887, saw the process of "making good" in operation on that most precious fragment of the earliest Church of St. Mark, of the time of Orseolo, the low arcaded screen, namely, which now forms the base of the great screen of the choir. A workman came in during the dinner hour, when the Church was almost empty, and took out of his bag several little marble capitals and other bits of carving, then, having found the parts of the screen to which they corresponded, he proceeded to cut out with his chisel the ancient details, and having made the holes of right shape he inserted the new work, this he smeared with a little soot or other dirt to tone its glaring whiteness—and behold a restoration ! The state of the screen before this useless, stupid and destructive "restoration" was begun, may be seen by reference to the work of Cataneo—*L'Architettura in Italia*, etc., etc., where a portion of it is figured, printed from a photogravure.

Almost every ancient building in Western Europe, the finer ones certainly, bear indelible marks of similar barbarity. Tons of carved stone have been cut away from the noblest churches of France, Germany and England because a figure here and there had lost a head or a hand, or a trail of vine wanted a few leaves. To take another instance from St. Mark's, that greatest treasure house forty years ago of mediæval Greek art. William Morris was there in 1878, when the restoration of the mosaics of the Baptistery had begun. He saw the workmen preparing for this by breaking down *all* the ancient mosaics from the vault. The priceless work fell on to the floor in masses. "I examined," says Mr. Morris, "the old mosaic not yet hacked away, I examined it closely and I declare it was not even in need of repair." "That has gone after the rest," he adds. It is scarcely necessary to say that the mosaic which we now see has all the smoothness and *mechanical* finish lacking to the old. Lest there should be any doubt as to the real nature of the influence which has thus blighted the fairest works of art spared by the renaissance of the sixteenth century, we will give another instance from an art which is supposed to be cultivated only by the most refined spirits of the day. The so-called Colonna Raphael passed into the possession of the Kings of Naples and was part of the property of the Royal Family saved after the surrender of Gaeta. It was valued at a very high price, and with the idea perhaps of realising this, the picture was sent to Paris, and was there "grievously repainted," not because of

any defect in the original work but solely because of a "thin horizontal crack across the middle of the picture, and it was to remove the traces of this that the French restorer, about the year 1862, daubed the faces and the sky with his pigments: a process which, when the picture was subsequently offered to the Louvre and the National Gallery, caused the authorities to refuse to purchase it."* This example exhibits perfectly the ignorance, the want of artistic perception, and the vulgarity of the ideal animating the restorer of works of art. To him there is no perfection but that of completeness. His notion of finish is not that of the master workman who hews out with a chisel the forms which crowd his imagination, and stops when his idea is expressed, but that of the apprentice who labours with file and sand-paper to leave everything smooth and even. He can see no value in the *fragment* of a great work, nor perceive the traces of the master hand in a crumbling capital or a mutilated figure; for him every ancient statue must have a head or it is worthless, and every picture which the weather or a chance blow has injured must be repainted, and he is so ignorant that he does not even suspect the existence of another state of mind, nor of a standard other than his own.

The restorer of the Raphael has had his imitators in the guardians of many an ancient minster. They too have undertaken the renewal of priceless works of art and they have left them ruins more hopeless than storm and sun and frost would have made of them

* *Times*, July 27th, 1896.

in centuries. This is a heavy indictment. Every member of the Society knows it is not overcharged. Who of us dares now to visit the buildings which once were fountains of instruction and delight? We know not what outrage may offend us, we may scarcely perceive what features once have been genuine, for all have been retooled, reshaped or "restored." We have fear of what we may miss if the building is one we once have known. And what gain is there to set against so much loss? There is none to the wayfarer; for the parishioners there is some increase of material comfort and the luxuriance of lacquered brass work and garish glass, if these things may content him; for the building itself there is but too seldom any greater stability to set against the loss of character, and not uncommonly a restoration leaves the building weaker rather than stronger.*

The idea of restoration, be it remembered, though it originated in a desire to repair the evils of long neglect, was fostered by the quite independent influences of a religious revival and the new-found interest in Gothic architecture. What wonder then if the restoration of obsolete liturgical features and of the more obvious aspects of a Gothic building had precedence over the less attractive amusements of underpinning, grouting, stiffening and weatherproofing? It may be said indeed of this movement that, though many architects have taken part in it, it has been mainly the occupation of dilettanti.

* The Society has been called upon to set firmly on their legs churches which have been already *twice* restored.

Every restoration traced to its source will almost certainly be found to have had for its prime mover some enthusiastic archæologist, or a parish priest anxious to reform the services in his church, and these two, severally or jointly, freely giving their time and money to the objects they had at heart, have been allowed to use the most precious architectural monuments of the country as their playground. The circumstances which allowed and favoured this monstrous abuse of public property have already been indicated. They were exceptional and unique in the history of Art. Never before had a people, beginning to perceive the degradation into which the Arts had fallen in their time, conceived the fatal delusion that the lack of Art among them might be supplied by taking to themselves the Art of a former time and of a civilisation utterly diverse from that to which they were themselves aspiring.

In Literature something like it had been seen in the third century, and if scholars who were able to appreciate the impotence of Alexandrinism to recall the classic time of Greece, had but perceived the analogy between the dream of the Neo-Platonists and that of the modern mediævalists, warnings might have been given which, perhaps, not coming from a rival school of Art, might have been accepted in time, and the course of the movement might have been modified; perhaps not. It appears rather to us that the madness we have passed through was inevitable.

For warnings there were. Clear-sighted and un-

prejudiced minds had perceived from the first the hollowness of the pretension which affected to restore an ancient building to its "pristine beauty" (the consecrated phrase) as also the terrible destruction which the imposture occasioned.

In the beginning of the century, John Carter, the father of all who have studied Gothic architecture systematically, appalled by the recklessness of so-called restorers, denounced their process as "murderous."

In 1833, Byron, with that clear insight of the poet which becomes the common-sense of posterity, thus appreciates the pretension to restore.

"There was a modern Goth, I mean a Gothic
Bricklayer of Babel, called an architect,
Brought to survey these grey walls, which though so thick,
Might have from time acquired some slight defect,
Who after rummaging the Abbey through thick
And thin, produced a plan whereby to erect
New buildings of correctest conformation,
And throw down old, which he call'd *restoration*."*

In 1849 appeared the *Seven Lamps of Architecture*, in which John Ruskin, speaking of the influence which ancient art may always have on modern, gave that solemn warning to architects and public alike which the Society still reprints as the most eloquent and just denunciation of the practices it is its duty to oppose.†

Artist, poet and antiquary alike protested in vain. When art was dead, how could an appeal to the artistic

* "Don Juan," Canto xvi., Stanza 58. Edition 1833.

† "Lamp of Memory," or slip reprinted from it by the Society.

sense be understood? Even the historical sense which is almost a product of this age was not yet sufficiently awake to see that modern antiques could have no validity as documents. All the current of opinion was in favour of the restorers, who appeared to be reviving not only the ancient features of our churches, but with them the ancient belief. In the thirty-three years between 1840 and 1873, 7,144* cathedral and parish churches were finally robbed of great part of their historical and æsthetic value, and passed from the rank of National monuments to become simply—churches with no more claim on the piety and veneration of Englishmen than if they had been erected yesterday.

In those years, however, the teachings of Ruskin and the inexorable logic of facts made so plain to the students of architecture and to all cultivated people that the pretence of "restoration" could no longer be maintained, and that any meddling with works of art by an inartistic generation could only result in the loss of their artistic character, that many of these began to express their feelings openly. They consulted together and finally asked if nothing could be done to check the mad havoc which had desolated so many of the fairest buildings of the country. It was fitting that a man who was both poet and artist should be the first to take the decisive step. In 1877 William Morris asked a few like-minded men, archæologists, painters, archi-

* About half the whole number in England and Wales, and £25,000,000 were spent in accomplishing this terrible devastation.—Return made to the House of Commons on the motion of Mr. Beresford Hope, 23rd March, 1876.

fects, to meet in Queen Square and consider with him what ought to be done. This meeting was attended by ten persons only, but many others wrote letters of sympathy. The ten decided to form an association for establishing a propaganda adverse to that which had worked so much mischief, and they decided to call themselves the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The names of these few, who acted, however, with full assurance of sympathy from all those who had been invited to attend, were: George Price Boyce, Alfred W. Hunt, Alfred Marks, William Morris, Thomas Wilkinson Norwood, Roddam Spencer Stanhope, F. G. Stephens, Henry Wallis, George Young Wardle, Philip Webb.

At this meeting Mr. Morris was elected Secretary and Treasurer, the latter office being provisional only, but for the Secretaryship it was recognised that no one else could be named, and he was directed to prepare for consideration at a future meeting an appeal for the abandonment of restoration as an impossible ideal, and for the adoption of a more conservative and rational system. The appeal which Mr. Morris wrote was approved at the next meeting and ordered to be printed, and it has ever since been the manifesto of the Society. Reading it now, it may be thought strange that a statement so reasonable and moderate should not have received at once wide acceptance. In truth, its success was at first small. Published just when the tide of restoration was at high flood, it excited more wonder than approval. No other method of repairing the

damage which time, neglect and violence had wrought in our ancient buildings, being yet known or dreamt of, it was too difficult for most people to understand that these buildings are essentially incapable of restoration, and the programme of the Society was examined at first, not with the idea of finding objections to the established system, but rather of learning how it might be extended. To find it speak of restoration as a thing to be set aside, renounced for evermore, was as if they had been asked to give up an article of faith. The most earnest to whom we appealed, therefore, became our bitterest opponents, for it seemed to them that we proposed to abandon ancient buildings to unchecked decay. The misunderstanding was inevitable perhaps, but the hindrance it gave to the efforts of the Society made it very useful to those whose personal objects were directly threatened by our propaganda, and they did not allow the misconception to diminish. It was thought a clever and effective reply to our manifesto to describe the Society as being one "for protecting ancient buildings by allowing them to tumble down." The clergy, alas! who might have helped much, found in the Society only an enemy, so widely did they differ from us in the feeling of veneration for the very buildings which ought to have been for them the most precious witnesses of the antiquity of the religion they teach.

Before any serious influence could be exercised by the Society it was necessary that its true object should be clearly understood, but when plain language was

distorted it seemed impossible that explanations could avail. Nevertheless an effort was made. The good will of the more respectable journals and magazines was utilised, and articles written by Professor Sidney Colvin and the Rev. W. J. Loftie were published in the *Nineteenth Century*, and *Macmillan's Magazine*; papers were read before the Royal Institute of British Architects by Mr. J. J. Stevenson, and before the Social Science Congress at Aberdeen, by Mr. George Aitchison, which excited a good deal of comment and served us admirably. The *Daily Press* also was for the most part sympathetic, and never refused us an opportunity of setting forth our principles. In consequence of announcements so made, many expressions of sympathy were received from all parts of the Kingdom, and Mr. Morris found that the step he had taken was the one thing needed to give unity and force to a very widespread but helpless public opinion. By the end of the year the adherents of the Society included all the most respectable names in literature and the Arts:—James Bryce, Thomas Carlyle, Leonard Courtney, George Webbe Dasent, Lord Houghton, W. Holman Hunt, E. Burne Jones, Sir John Lubbock, J. Everett Millais, Coventry Patmore, the Rev. Mark Pattison, John Ruskin, Robertson Smith, Leslie Stephen, G. F. Watts, W. Aldis Wright, etc., etc.

To those members who may still possess the report of the first general meeting we need not repeat these facts, but there are many members now who never saw that report, and for them we shall make a few extracts.

Earl Cowper was chairman of the first general meeting. He likened an ancient building, with all its defects, to an imperfect poem or history, and asked what would be said of the man who, after carefully studying the Spenserian stanza and English of the sixteenth century, undertook to complete the "Fairy Queen," and then to publish his patchwork without any acknowledgment that it was not original work? "But such things restorers do, and make the reading of an ancient building difficult even for an expert." The Secretary's report expressed surprise that some such society as ours had not been called into existence long before "to guard the lives and souls of our ancient monuments, and *not their bodies merely*;" for restoration, while it thinks to preserve by rebuilding, robs the fabric of all sentiment of antiquity, and removes every trace of the original handiwork. Reinforcing this declaration, Professor Sidney Colvin said, "every piece of new work in an old building, every recent chisel mark on an ancient surface, is something which, in the opinion of the Society, requires an apology. It would be an immense change if we could create such a body of public opinion throughout England as would lead the guardians of our ancient buildings, from deans and chapters down to parish clerks, to feel that instead of being proud of brand-new work, they should hang their heads for it and feel it necessary to explain and justify its existence." Now, wild and hopeless as it may be to set forth such an ideal, it is the right one. It adopts the only reverent attitude towards ancient monuments of any kind. Any

attitude less forbearing must lead to confusion of their characteristics—to falsification, and finally to the loss of all historic value. How far architects and their patrons have already gone in reducing to one dead level of common-place monuments once vital, each one with an individuality peculiarly its own, Lord Houghton* bore witness when he said that the result of forty years of "restoration" had been to produce "the most monotonous set of ecclesiastical buildings that have, perhaps, ever been seen in any country at one time. When you pass a restored church you say, 'Yes, Mr. So-and-So, I know all about it. Everything is all right. The old part which stood in the way of his ideas has disappeared, the new parts have all come just as they have in other churches.'" Everyone's experience will approve this description, but later practitioners have relieved the "monotony" by the abundant personal characteristics they have introduced.

To discriminate between various kinds of falsification which individual professors have added to the *acta sincera* of mediæval builders would be waste of time, but one peculiarity of them all is worth noting. This is that each method or system is vaunted, when first introduced, as the right one, and is in turn condemned by the restorers themselves. The certainty with which the wheel always brings up a new architect who is declared the "safe man," just as the last in whom safety was said to be permanent goes down, would be comic if its consequences were not so sad. For it is by this perennial

* P. 27.

growth that the pernicious system is maintained. When the Society has appealed for the preservation of a supreme work of art to the "influential Committee," to whom its fate has been entrusted, and has pointed to the disastrous results of "restoration" elsewhere, it has been told: "Yes, we agree with you as to the north transept of Westminster, or the work at St. Mary's, Oxford, or at St. Alban's and at Peterborough, but we are employing a more eminent architect, who disapproves of what has been done there, and you may be quite sure he will only do what the Society would itself approve." A few years later (we have had now twenty years of such experiences) the same admission is made, and the same assurance is given when another "eminent" architect is entrusted with the care of another priceless monument. The expedient is an old one,* and the use of it by those who are really responsible for the destructive restoration which has been going on for sixty years, is a proof of the insincerity which underlies the whole system, for if restorers really desired the stability and integrity of the monuments entrusted to their charge they would not shut their eyes to the evidence which every restoration gives that the process *is* destructive, equally of the artistic value and the authenticity of the buildings to which it is applied. Their insincerity is also shown by

* And is ever new though not always presented under the old form. Just now we ought to caution innocent people that it is to be found under the assertion that things were once very bad, but now that the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has been so long at work, every body, architects included, are much more careful, and there need be no fear.

the persistence with which they repeat that ingenious description of us as "a Society which would preserve ancient buildings by letting them tumble down." A mis-statement which has often thrown buildings we have set ourselves to protect more completely into the hands of the despoilers. Against the malign influence of this calumny the Society has had a long and uphill struggle. Hardly, very hardly, has it begun even now to find some measure of credence for the repeated declarations it has made from the first year of its existence in contradiction of this perverse misrepresentation of its principles.

In the report we are now reviewing Mr. Morris* said, "We have probably all of us heard our Society accused, *in the face of the declaration of the first paper we put forth*, of being ourselves the favourers of that ruin and destruction from which we profess to defend our ancient monuments. We should like to protest once more against this misunderstanding and to declare what a grief it is to us to come across the results, the unfortunately irreparable results, of neglect and brutality, and what a pleasure to look on a building which, owing to reverent and constant care, still stands trim and sound,† with no wilfulness with which to accuse the hand of man, with nothing to regret except the inevitable lapse of time, and the slow and gentle decay it has brought

* P. 16.

† Southwell Minster was such a building when we visited it in 1878, but in order to rouse some kind of interest in the new diocese, it has been extensively restored. As part of the restoration the beautiful choir stalls of Bernasconi have been destroyed and many new features added to the building.

with it, and how slow that may be, the most ancient buildings in the world yet bear witness and will do so for many a hundred years."

Such like protests we have made continually. We will quote one more which we find in the handwriting of William Morris, it is in the form of a resolution :

"That this meeting, while condemning the practice of so-called restoration, as certain to deprive an ancient building of all historical and artistic interest, is deeply convinced of the necessity of preserving our ancient monuments in substantial repair, and once more urges on all guardians of such monuments the duty, which has from the first been pressed upon them by this Society, of constant vigilance in preventing all beginnings of decay."

Was not language such as this emphatic enough ? Surely it might have been if those to whom it was addressed had desired to know the truth, but the interests of our opponents lay in obtaining credence for the misrepresentation. The parson had his own purpose to serve, and no architect with his fortune to make *dared* to recommend or approve the methods which the honest preservation of the building required. They would tax, too heavily, his own time or that of a well-trained assistant. He prefers to proceed by specification and estimate. Specifications written in London for the repair of an ancient building are more dangerous than useful. What is needed in such a case is the constant, unremitting attention, the presence on the spot of an experienced, accomplished and truly sympathetic architect. Why, when our great churches were built, architects were not allowed to be absent from the

work a day without special cause; and when these buildings fall into decay, when their existence even is threatened, is less care demanded? Be it remembered also that at the time when these buildings were erected, the art which shaped them was a living thing, every mason and carpenter had his share in it, and in his own department might have been trusted to do with intelligence and in harmony with the spirit of the whole, whatever was committed to him. Is there not then more need for careful supervision, and that of the highest kind, in these days, when the art which produced the original work is dead? There can be no doubt of the answer. How then shall an architect having twenty or thirty restorations in his office at once, give to each the time that all alike demand? It is well understood that on the commercial basis any such personal oversight of the architect is *impossible*, and this is why architects in large practice prefer to pull down and rebuild, which can be done by directions given from the London office, rather than repair on the spot.

In the face, then, of their direct opposition to the theory of repair, it was necessary that the Society should be able to show proof that the course it recommended in the case of ancient buildings perishing from decay was a feasible one, but for a long while this was not permitted, so strong was the prejudice created against us. Nevertheless, the incessant protests of the Society were not without effect, even on those who resisted most strenuously its recommendations, and it has seen reverent and conservative treatment adopted where

formerly only drastic measures were thought of. We have remarked on the wholesale destruction of the mosaics of St. Mark's. The tempest of wrath which fell on the heads of the destroyers would seem to have excited the authorities at Trieste to discover a more rational method.

In the Duomo at Trieste the mosaic of one of the semi-domes had become loose, detached from the brick-work, and was in danger of falling in a mass. We know what was done at Venice in like case. A few taps with a pointed hammer hastened the fall, and a new mosaic, made by the great establishment at Murano, replaced the old. This was both brutal and costly; at Trieste they saved their old mosaic, and saved also their money. The method employed was an adaptation of that followed when an old picture has to be re-lined. Sheets of paper were carefully glued to the under surface of the mosaic, one sheet over another, until sixteen layers of stout paper protected the tesserae and held them firmly together; under this thick coating of paper a stout centering of wood was constructed, and it was then firmly held to the paper by pouring plaster of Paris between the two. There was thus made a solid and secure support for the whole surface of the mosaic, and then the rebuilding of the dome was begun. All the masonry of the dome was then lifted from the back of the mosaic, and the cement which still clung to the tesserae was chipped away until the reverse side of the whole design became "distinctly and brilliantly apparent." The back was then grouted with Portland

cement, which was kept moist, and on this as a bed or centering a new dome was constructed, to which, when set, the mosaic firmly adhered. After the due period of repose the wooden centering below was struck, the plaster of Paris chipped off, and the paper lining of the mosaic was detached, and so the problem of fixing this work of art once more to the brickwork was solved *without the disturbance of a single tessera.*

Reference to our annual report of 1890, will show how the bronze bull belonging to the Church of Orvieto, which had fallen and been broken in many pieces, was put together again by a member of this Society, and replaced on its pedestal, after the usual indolent proposal for making a new one "on the original lines" had been proposed. If Mr. Graham Jackson, who gives us the story of the preservation of the mosaics at Trieste,* could have extended his sympathies to sculpture, he might have been stimulated by Signor Boni's ingenious piecing of a metal figure to have saved for us the admirable figures of bishops, apostles and saints which once adorned the venerable church of St. Mary at Oxford—surely a less difficult task than that of rehabilitating the Bull of Orvieto.

But we must give some instances of the repair of buildings.

Lake House is a fine mansion of the time of Queen Elizabeth, in the parish of Durnford, about four miles south of Amesbury. The house stands on chalk in the

* *Dalmatia, the Quarnero and Istria, etc.* T. G. Jackson, M.A., F.S.A., 1887.

valley of the Avon. There were no damp courses in the walls. The dampness of the site had been increased by making a carriage road, which sloping downwards towards the building brought surface water to the foundations. The moisture continually rising through the spongy chalk, of which the walls also were partly constructed, had rotted the large bond timbers and lintels which had been used to bind the rather slight and loosely cohering masonry. The walls were externally of ashlar, arranged chequerwise, the intermediate chequers being filled with flint. This outer skin is backed with flint and chalk rubble. The decay of the lintels and other binding timbers had proved very disastrous to walls like these. Great cracks showed from top to bottom and the walls were split also longitudinally, the outer and inner faces having been thrust apart. Both faces were slight, and the tails of the ashlar blocks of the outer ones were short and the flint work very thin. The rubble filling moreover had been tumbled in without mortar.* Neither did the frames of the windows give much help in binding the inner to the outer skin for the jambs were not solid ashlar, but quoined only. Architects will understand how the settlements due to the shrinking beams must have dislocated walling such as this. The cracks internally made a complex network, the jambs of the windows were rent by enormous fissures, and the mullions were split by cracks which extended from top to bottom of the bays. All this dis-

* One architect who inspected the building likened the two thin facings with the loose chalk fillings to sacks of potatoes.

turbance had not been lessened by the alterations which the building had undergone from time to time. Some efforts at staying had been made by bolting together the parting faces of the walls, but nothing substantial had been done, and the house became at last uninhabitable, and it was a question for the owner whether to pull it down and rebuild, or abandon it as a ruin.

In re-establishing this interesting building, as in solidifying the mosaics at Trieste, the system of working from the back of the wall, where repair would not afterwards be visible, was followed, the external face of the wall not being touched. Lake House, therefore, still presents, after restoration, the same unaltered features and the same weathered surfaces as before. This preservation of the ancient surface, as well as the ancient features, should be the aim of every restoration worthy to be called such—a restoration which provokes the unwary to say, “I can’t see that anything has been done.” Another such re-establishment was that of Forthampton, near Tewkesbury, a most interesting manor house, formerly belonging to the Abbots of Tewkesbury. It had fallen into sad decay, but is now stronger than ever, while it retains all the venerable aspect of age. Another example of the successful application of the methods recommended by this Society, is the tower of the church of Knoyle, in Wiltshire. This also was considered by all who saw it, as a hopeless wreck: it was cracked, the core of the walls loose and running out through the cracks, the great arch had sunk, being weakened by the removal of the stone steps

from the turret, which served originally as an abutment, and the wall above the arch had dropped with it, disclosing a huge triangular fissure. Notwithstanding its apparently desperate state, and the fears of those most responsible for its safety, we advised that it should *not* be pulled down, and, our advice being taken, the tower still stands, a monument of what may be done by intelligent care, when the object is not to destroy but to preserve. Other works of consolidation, not less difficult, requiring the constant attendance of the architect, are now going on under the direction of the Society, and we begin to hope that the results of patient repair which we are thus able to set before the profession may recommend that course as the only one henceforth to be followed. When this good time comes, the sincere restorer of ancient buildings, who has never in the worst times desired other than the stability and integrity of the buildings entrusted to his care, will recognise how uselessly destructive, how incompetent, have been the methods hitherto employed. Let us say how wasteful of money also ; for in all the cases we have noted the cost of repair has been markedly less than the estimated cost of rebuilding. There remains then neither reason nor excuse for that spurious restoration which affects to do what it is incapable of doing. To put an old and decrepit building firmly on the ground again is within the reach of mechanical art, but to make that building such as it was in its first days and restore the beauty of its youth is as impossible to the architect as the corresponding miracle would be to the physician

operating on the human subject, for both are alike a *growth*. And why in the case of the building should we desire so to "restore" it, are not the remains of mediæval England more precious because of the evident marks of antiquity they bear, signs of the changes and vicissitudes they have passed through? Does not the kindly impress of nature give them a consecration deserving our respect not less than that other sacredness which religion has bestowed? Approved by the beneficent touch of nature, and endeared to us by memories which have grown over them like the mosses gilding their roofs, they have acquired a beauty different to that which man's rage or negligence has marred, but one which endears them not less to the reverent mind. Shall we then in turn deprive them of this? Surely not, and nothing compels us to do so. Why then go beyond the duty of simple repair? We have seen why. The pretence that more is needed is the excuse that is made for alterations not warranted by structural necessity. It is the pretext for innovation, for modernising. If modernising is not the object why the introduction into every "restored" church of so much modern material—the hideous "cathedral glass"* in lieu of the beautiful silvery or perhaps horny glass of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—why the cartloads of Staffordshire tiles to replace the old pavements—why the flashy brass-work and the cheap furniture, pitiable specimens from the ecclesiastical warehouses? These

* An abomination disguised under an attractive name for the mystification of the vulgar.

and such-like frivolities have no congruity with mediæval architecture or the decorum of a sacred building. We say this because we are often told that the Society looks upon old churches too narrowly, as being monuments only, and that we forget the present uses of these buildings; we are told that we ought to consider the spiritual welfare of each generation as a counter-claim to extravagant estimates of the artistic or historic value of the buildings themselves. Well, if this puts the case fairly it may be understood that we are at least aware of the reproach. Our contention is that the religious use of our old churches need not deprive them of any aspect of antiquity, nor any single church of its *personal* character, if only the adaptation to modern forms of worship be made *with due respect to the building as a monument*. It is precisely the uncertainty with which the distinguishing character of ancient buildings is regarded which leads to its being frittered away by one alteration after another. When changes have to be made, if the dire necessity should arise, there is no imperative obligation to neglect the historic aspect of the building in making them, nor to diminish its artistic value, but there is a supreme obligation that the antiquity of the building, its one quality which no art can restore, should be respected. If only that respect could be maintained there would be an end of the controversy. It would impose care in place of negligence, caution in place of rashness, forbearance where too often personal ambition or ignorance obtrude themselves. If such reverence might have inspired the first restor-

ations, how different would have been the course of the movement begun sixty years ago! Buildings which are now hopelessly and for ever spoiled, vulgarised, and hideous to human eyes, might have retained for us some of the beauty of a great and poetic past, and touched us still by the benign influence of age. Pilgrims to the shrine which Dickens built round the grave of his heroine would not have missed, as now they do in every ancient building, the halo of antiquity, "the light old and grey," streaming through its ancient windows. They might still tread the ancient floor, no longer broken, but discreetly patched and firm; they would find the arches stayed and solid now, the pillars steadfast, supporting the ancient roof, every bit of mouldering timber removed, but nothing lost which affection and duty had been able to save. They would know only by the sweetness and cleanliness, by the air no longer "redolent of decay," that a great change had passed over the place. They would find the stately tomb still wanting its epitaph, but speaking plainly of the vanity of human glory. How much more affecting such a church, and conducive to religious thought, than the garish modern building, with its bedizenments and its novelties, the old tombs thrust out of sight and every sentiment of antiquity banished! To protect ancient buildings from such like modernisings and "improvements" the Society has worked and pleaded during the twenty-two years of its existence.

NOTES ON THE SOCIETY'S WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Aldershot Parish Church.

This church is of greater value than might be supposed. Although "restoration" has added a new north aisle and practically destroyed the nave, the chancel is an interesting mediæval building, and the picturesque tower with its red brick top is, in the main, the original mediæval tower.

After visiting the building, the Committee wrote to the authorities, and now awaits the fulfilment of a promise that the Society shall see the plans before active steps are taken.

Bath Abbey.

A proposed restoration of the west front of Bath Abbey has, from its great importance, received much attention from the Society during the past year. In addition to representations sent to the rector and to the public press, a report was presented to the Restoration Committee, dealing with the age, history and present condition of various decorative features.

Perhaps the best known of these are the ladders with ascending and descending angels, erected in commemoration of the dream which Bishop Oliver King interpreted as a divine command to rebuild the church; and it is gratifying to find that, so far as could be ascer-

tained from the ground with the aid of strong field glasses, these figures are quite safe and need no repair.

As to the canopied figures of Apostles on the turrets, the report says :

" Notes have been taken of each figure; the heads are wanting to three of these, others are partly worn away and some appear to have been renewed. Many of the figures have iron bolts through them, some as many as three, which have rusted and caused considerable damage. These bolts should be carefully removed, the cracks and fractured stones closed and secured with copper bolts. The top figure on the south-west side of the north turret appears to be the most damaged, and one of the cusp points over appears likely to fall. The figure below has the foot of drapery on its right nearly broken away. The bottom figure on the north-west of south turret appears to be modern. We are of opinion that the only work necessary to these figures is that of repair.

" The canopies to the second and third figure in each set are worn, but we do not consider that they require to be touched. The bases of these sets of figures have all been renewed."

Dealing with the space over the large west window, the report continues:

" In this there are a number of holes which should be filled in. The head of the central figure is cracked, but it seems to be modern. The head we think could be saved by using copper dowels and putting on a lead skull cap; this would be better than a new head, as the present head is weather-worn and the new one for a time would be hard in outline. The open parapet work to this central portion between the turrets and central canopy is now almost entirely broken away. We are afraid that there may be a wish to replace it, but in our opinion this would be a mistake. One of the great beauties of the front is the sculptured space over the

window, the carving of which is worn into soft masses, which are most pleasant. This effect would be injured by the hard lines of a new open parapet. We believe it would be much better to make everything perfectly sound in its present state by lead coverings, etc., rather than to add more new stonework than a bare minimum necessity would dictate."

With regard to the missing canopies to the two large figures on either side of the west door, though it is suggested that it might be possible to replace part of one of these which seems to lie inside the railings at the west end of the church, yet it is pointed out that the absence of the canopies is not detrimental to the building except as allowing damage to the figures by rain, and this might be remedied by a thick lead hood supported by metal rests.

The report concludes :

"The general structure is sound and in good condition; it is only parts of the figures that are to any extent dangerous or likely to fall. Looking down from the roof over the parapet, small pieces of stone could be seen crumbling away. These seemed at most not to weigh more than half a pound and would fall within the space enclosed by the pierced parapet over the west door.

"The front is a work of very great beauty, and interest in that beauty depends wholly on the absolute authenticity of the work. We believe that all it requires is some minor repairs, and we believe the Restoration Committee would be well advised to endeavour to make those repairs with the least possible use of new stone. If after careful consideration it is decided that it is necessary to insert a stone here and there, such stones should be entirely un moulded and uncarved, so that that fatal doubt as to how much of a work of art is real and how much pretence, should not destroy the pleasure of the reverent visitor to this fine church."

The Old Rectory, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

On the first page of our last year's report we referred to this building and a view of it appeared as a frontispiece.

The Committee has now the painful duty of reporting to its members that although it may have been successful in saving the building from being pulled down, it has been unsuccessful in saving it from "restoration."

The fatal mistake has been made of trying to bring the building back to what it once was, and the life has to a great extent gone out of it.

It had been thoroughly altered by the introduction of sash windows, which were in themselves of unusual interest, for they were executed in oak, and were good examples of how sash windows should be made.

All these are being replaced by mullioned windows, copies of what they once may have been, and although the work of restoration is not finished, the principle which is governing it is clearly the old-fashioned one of the "restorers," and we therefore fear we must record this as one of the Society's failures.

The Court Room, St. Peter's Hospital, Bristol.

It is hardly necessary to describe this room, as it is probably well known to many of the members of the Society, and the entire property is one of Bristol's treasures.

The Society was informed by one of its Local Cor-

respondents that a proposal was before the Bristol Board of Guardians, the occupiers, to fix four ventilators in the ceiling of the Board Room. This ceiling is a beautiful example of Jacobean plaster work, divided into square, diamond and quatrefoil compartments, and enriched with floral ornaments and other devices.

The Society addressed a letter to the Board of Guardians, in which it pointed out that no method of piercing the ancient plaster ceiling for the purposes of ventilation could be satisfactorily effected without causing irreparable damage to the ceiling.

We are glad to be able to report that the Board decided to build a new room for its meetings, and therefore the ancient Court Room will not be interfered with.

The Committee is greatly indebted to our Local Correspondent for so promptly calling attention to the matter, as it often happens that owing to the Society not hearing of intended acts of vandalism in time, many objects of interest are destroyed before it has an opportunity of appealing for their preservation.

Corhampton Church, Hants.

This building was visited by a professional member of the Society, and as the result of his survey a report was drawn up and sent to the vicar.

The Church is of remarkable interest, as it is a genuine Saxon building, and with the exception of the east end, which is modern, it is unrestored.

It is therefore a pleasure to the Committee to be able to say that it has been informed by the vicar

that his Committee has approved of the Society's report, and that the work will be carried out in accordance with its recommendations.

We think this is a case in which the members of the Society may subscribe, of course making their subscriptions conditional upon the report of the Society being adhered to.

Whitgift Almshouses, Croydon.

In our last report we called attention to the great value of these buildings, and the danger of their being destroyed.

We regret to have to state that they are still threatened from time to time by local people, but the Society is keeping a careful watch upon them, and will do its utmost, in conjunction with other societies, to prevent their demolition.

The Almshouses are of such historical and architectural value that their disappearance would be not only a local, but a national misfortune.

Denbigh Churches.

St. Hilary's Church.

We were informed that this building, which is disused, was to be destroyed, with the exception of the chancel, and arrangements were made for the Church to be surveyed. This was done, and a report sent to the rector, in which it was urged that the building should not be removed, but that it should be adapted to some useful purpose.

As the Garrison Church of the Castle, and in many other respects, it is of considerable interest, and the tower is a very conspicuous and effective object from every point of view.

St. George's.

Our member visited this building and found it was being pulled down.

From photographs which we possess, it seems to have been an edifice of considerable architectural merit, and there can be no excuse for its destruction, as it was a disused building, and its site was not needed for any particular purpose.

Whit-Church.

This is one of the most interesting buildings in Denbigh, and contains a very fine and well-preserved altar tomb with recumbent effigies, etc. It is now only used for funeral services. The gutter between the roofs is defective, and water leaks into the Church in several places, but otherwise the building is in a good condition.

We have pointed out to the rector the value of the building, and have begged him to repair the gutter as soon as possible.

There is a difficulty in dealing with buildings of this class. Denbigh has a modern church in the centre of the town, and the inhabitants complain of having to keep useless buildings in repair.

This Society is always anxious that ancient buildings should be put to some useful purpose, as it is strongly

of opinion that their chance of preservation is thus much increased, and it feels that it should certainly be possible to find a profitable use for these Denbigh Churches.

Such buildings are often destroyed without sufficient consideration being given to the fact that in their destruction a visible portion of the history of a place which can never be regained is lost, and even from a commercial point of view the removal of ancient buildings often ends in monetary loss, as many people, who would otherwise do so, refrain from visiting places which have been deprived of such objects.

Dulverton Bridge.

The river Barle at Dulverton is spanned by an old stone bridge of considerable beauty.

The Society heard that it had been proposed to repair the parapets of the bridge with Staffordshire blue bricks as being the best and cheapest way of repairing them, and it, therefore, addressed a letter to the Somersetshire County Council, and pointed out that the introduction of blue bricks into the construction of the bridge would, without doubt, be an eyesore, and urged that there could be no difficulty in re-setting all existing stones which needed to be re-set, and making up any deficiency with new stone.

We only received a formal acknowledgment of our letter, but its contents have evidently received consideration, as we are informed by one of our professional members who recently visited the bridge, that it has

been well repaired with stone, and in a workmanlike manner.

Exeter Guildhall.

In the last report it was stated that the Town Council were considering a report from the Society, and we are now glad to be able to say that the Guildhall is to be repaired in accordance with the Society's recommendations.

Steel girders will be inserted in the floor and roof, and the front wall will be tied back to them. This portion of the work will be done under the supervision of the City Surveyor. The rest of the necessary works of repair will be carried out by a local man under the direction of the Society.

This is in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Society's report.

Ancient Well, Great Easton, Rutlandshire.

A professional member of the Society, who was visiting in this neighbourhood, called our attention to this very quaint and interesting structure, which is popularly known as the "Roman Well." It is probably of seventeenth century date, and the cross and pedestal of an older churchyard or wayside cross have been used as a terminal to its conical roof.

Our member reported that, owing to the giving way of some stones near the base, a crack had been formed which, if not attended to, might lead to the ruin of the building, and he pointed out the nature of the repairs necessary.

The Committee therefore addressed a letter to the agents to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (the owners), who replied to the effect that they had given directions for any necessary protection work to be carried out.

The Committee is deeply grateful to the agents for their courtesy in the matter.

Hever Castle, Kent.

The following letter from the Society appeared in the *Times* of January 29th, 1899:

To the Editor of the *Times*.

Sir,—The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has had so many inquiries as to the alterations to Hever Castle now being carried out by Captain Sebright, the present owner, that I trust you will allow me to state in your columns what action we have taken.

Hever Castle was built in the fifteenth century by Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, great-grandfather of Anne Boleyn, the hapless mother of Queen Elizabeth, and thus appeals in a peculiar manner to the feelings and sentiments of Englishmen.

It must not, however, be forgotten that it is now private property, and, in approaching Captain Sebright, the Society could do no more than entreat a reconsideration of some rumoured intentions, such as the removal of the Guard-house, and offer to make a survey of the building and a report upon its condition in the same way as it had lately done in the case of Haddon Hall. Captain Sebright has evidently devoted much study and research to Hever Castle, but it was pointed out that as several of our members had spent years in endeavouring to preserve all that is valuable in such buildings, while at the same time adapting them to

present needs, a union of their experience with his knowledge might be the means of solving the difficult problem of saving the old while providing for the new more completely than either party could do alone.

It is with much regret my Society has to state that this offer has been declined; because no amount of knowledge and research can alone afford a guarantee against the real interest of our historic buildings being swept away by even the best intentioned restoration, as was abundantly proved by the restoration of the Château of Pierrefonds by Violet le Duc, the French architect, who had spent his life in the study of mediæval fortification, and whose works upon the subject are of such absorbing interest.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THACKERAY TURNER, *Secretary.*

*The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,
10, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C., Jan. 27th.*

We regret to say that the ancient Guard-house is threatened with destruction; but, as we have already pointed out in the above letter, the Castle being private property, the Society cannot do more than enter its protest against the destruction of a valuable ancient building.

Hexham Abbey Church.

Through the kind permission of the rector, a thorough examination of this remarkable building was made by the Society, and a careful report sent to its custodians.

The Church, as is well known, is of extreme interest and value, and is a genuine example of thirteenth century work.

The repairs necessary to put it into a proper struc-

tural condition are chiefly works of underpinning. It is of the utmost importance that this underpinning should be done at the earliest possible date, and before any other works are undertaken.

It would, of course, be unwise to spend money on any internal fittings until the Church itself is made structurally secure, and we have specially urged this in our report.

We have just learnt from the June number of the *Hexham Parish Magazine* that two architects were appointed on May 19th to report upon the building, and it says that the architects do not recognise the building to be in any structural danger, but recommend the *building of a new nave in the style of the fifteenth century*, and among decorative works, that the east side of the rood-screen *will have to be altered and made to look nice*, and again, the grand paintings of the *seven canonised bishops will be placed at the sides of the altar, and supplemented with similar work to complete the enclosure*.

We have not seen the actual report, or a copy of it, but if these quotations from the parish magazine are a fair representation of its contents, it is clear that an old-fashioned "restoration" is contemplated, and without any mitigation.

Make as much show as you can for the money, and never mind about saving the old building, seems to be the governing principle.

St. Winefride's Well, Holywell, Flintshire.

Underneath the parish church of Holywell in Flintshire is a beautiful fifteenth century stone-vaulted well.

In 1898, the Society had its attention called to the danger threatening this well. A mineral water bottling company claimed that on a lease which they held from the Urban Council they had a right to enclose the well, and as the Society considered this would be injurious to the building, it was visited by an architect, who gave the Society an excellent report on the condition of the building, as well as the circumstances affecting the ownership. Subsequently, a professional member of the Society, a solicitor of great experience, kindly took the matter up and made a report from the legal point of view, at which stage the Society handed all its papers on the subject over to the "National Trust," and we have recently been informed that its solicitor is in communication with the solicitor to the Duke of Westminster, and we have, therefore, every hope that the building will be wrested from the hands of the bottling company, and eventually become the property of the "National Trust."

Inglesham Church, Wilts.

This Church has been mentioned in many of our reports since the year 1887.

One of our members recently made an offer of a sum of money on condition that the amount of the architect's estimate for the remaining repairs was collected by June 1st.

Through the unfailing energy of the Rev. Oswald Birchall this has been accomplished, and Mr. Micklethwaite has been asked to have the work completed this summer.

As his estimate was made some years ago, when the cost of building was less than it is now, we fear that we may still have to beg for a further sum, but we feel sure that if this is so, our members will help us in our difficulty, and that it will be a matter of rejoicing to them and every lover of old buildings, that this building has been put in substantial repair, and that no excuse is left for a "thorough restoration."

Langley Chapel, Shropshire.

The Chapel at Langley, near Acton Burnell is a building of considerable interest, and apart from valuable associations with the history of the district, it derives a peculiar interest from being frequently referred to in architectural books as one of the very few remaining instances, dating from the time of the Commonwealth, of a church with the altar in the centre of the chancel surrounded by seats for communicants.

The Society heard that the building was in need of repair, and therefore had it surveyed by a professional member, who reported that it would cost about £50 to save the building from decay, and that £80 would effect a thorough repair.

It often happens that the Society feels itself unable to raise its voice in favour of the retention of church arrangements which, though of great antiquarian interest, are now considered inconsistent with the reverent performance of divine service, but in the case of Langley Chapel no such consideration exists, as the building has not been used for services for many years.

Under these circumstances it would be the greatest pity if such a graphic illustration of an important phase in the history of English thought were swept away, and the Committee therefore deemed it to be its duty to endeavour to raise the £50 necessary to save the building from ruin, even if it could not do all the necessary repairs. We are glad to be able to report that we have received promises to the amount of £35, and a conditional promise of £5 towards the additional sum of £30 necessary to effect a thorough repair.

The question of ownership is now under consideration, and when this is satisfactorily settled, and we have received a guarantee that the Chapel will be preserved, we hope to be able to raise the balance of the sum needed, and then have the works specified by our surveyor carried out.

Little Oakley Church, Essex.

In November, 1896, the Society wrote to the rector and asked him if there was any truth in a rumour it had heard that he proposed to demolish the Church at Little Oakley, and we received a reply from him to the effect that he proposed to provide a new building on a fresh site, and he contradicted the rumour as to demolition.

However, in July, 1898, a notice appeared in the *Church Builder*, the journal of the Incorporated Church Building Society, of an appeal for a grant for building a new church, and in this it was stated that "it is proposed to preserve the chancel and some part of the nave, for use as a mortuary chapel," thus implying that the rest of the building was to be demolished.

The Committee thereupon again addressed the rector, and asked him if he would contradict the statement made in the *Church Builder*, but he replied that the proposal was made "not with any idea of wilful destruction, but to meet the wishes of those who desire to preserve all the interesting features of this old building." The rector concluded by saying that he did not think anything would be done for the present.

We have pointed out to the rector that we consider it would be better even to allow the building to become a ruin, rather than that it should be wilfully destroyed, for so long as it is standing, hope remains that it may be repaired, and the Society would be glad to do what it could to bring this about.

As to the preservation of the "interesting features" of a building, the Society holds that the value of ancient buildings does not so much rest on this or that particular portion, but on the design as a whole, and therefore to destroy any portion of a building because it does not appear to be particularly interesting is, from our point of view, indefensible. And it must be remembered that many buildings which are of great beauty, and have the indefinable charm of genuine works of art, do not possess any particular "features of interest."

Llanddew Church, Breconshire.

The Church at Llanddew was visited on behalf of the Society, and our representative was met at the building by the vicar, who very courteously gave him full particulars of the nature of the works contemplated.

The chancel, transepts and tower were restored some years ago.

The nave is now in bad repair, but a comparatively small sum would probably be sufficient for putting it into a proper condition for the purposes of divine worship.

The Society sent a letter to the vicar, in which it recommended among other things that a new roof should be put to the nave at a slightly higher pitch, as the present roof is rotten and the pitch too low for the stone slates which cover it to be used with safety, and that the walls, which are mediæval, should be retained at their present height.

We regret to learn, however, that the chief subscribers have decided to raise the walls, put on a high pitch roof, and do other works of a similar nature.

The result can, in our opinion, only be a "restoration" of the usual kind, and the expense will be far greater than if necessary work only was carried out. Thus, money which might well be spent on doing the necessary repairs to another building, will here to all intents and purposes be wasted on an attempt to bring the building back to what is supposed may have been its former condition.

London. Tudor House, Bromley, E.

Most of our members will know the story of this house from what has appeared in the public press.

The London County Council acquired the property on which it stands for the purposes of a playground, but unfortunately the Open Spaces Committee looked at

the question from one point of view only, and recommended the destruction of the house in order to obtain the ground upon which it stands.

The Committee for the Survey of the Memorials of Greater London moved actively in the matter, and this and other societies memorialised the London County Council, with the result that the Council refused to sanction the destruction of the building. This is a matter for congratulation, for the building will save the playground from being a dreary waste.

It will certainly prove a serviceable building, and in itself will be a useful example for the study of past times. The one danger now is that too much money may be spent upon it, for all that should be done is to mend the roof and windows as well as the flooring and plaster ceilings, and to give it a coat or two of paint.

London. Crypt of St. John's Priory Church, Clerkenwell.

The Society had its attention called to a proposal to restore this valuable Crypt, and obtained permission for a Sub-committee to visit. The deputation was met by one of the churchwardens, who, with the greatest courtesy, gave it much assistance.

Our members were agreeably surprised to find the Crypt clear of all obstruction; and what is so unusual and satisfactory, the whole of the underground church of the eleventh and twelfth centuries was found to be nearly perfect.

As the result of the survey made by the Sub-committee, a long report was sent to the rector and church-

wardens, and this report will, we are informed by the rector, be considered by the Restoration Committee.

The wanton destruction which has recently deprived London of much of its too scanty underground building, has caused this especially precious example of Norman-English building to become the more valuable, and we are anxious that the Crypt should be put to some useful purpose. This can be done without loss of interest, but a great deal depends upon the *spirit* in which the necessary works are undertaken.

For example, any attempt to restore the missing groining of the western bay would be fatal, as it would introduce new imitative masonry in connection with the old work, which would be harmful to its authentic character and quiet appearance.

London. The Ironmongers' Almshouses, Kingsland Road.

It was with the utmost concern that the Committee learnt of a proposal to demolish these interesting buildings. The Vestry of Shoreditch had written to the Ironmongers' Company stating that in their opinion the almshouses and garden would be "a convenient site for an additional electric lighting station, an extension of a street, and a recreation ground."

The Society addressed the Ironmongers' Company upon the subject and received a reply to the effect that "the Company do not propose to entertain any scheme which may involve the destruction of any part of the buildings or grounds belonging to their almshouses in the Kingsland Road."

As, however, we understood that the Vestry had appealed to the London County Council to ask for powers of compulsory purchase in their next General Powers' Bill, the Society presented a memorial to the latter body in which it urged that the Council should not assist in acquiring the almshouses, and begged them to oppose any scheme which will involve the destruction of any part of the buildings or the defacement of any portion of the grounds.

This memorial is now under consideration, and we hope that the decision of the Council will be favourable to those who are so anxious to preserve for the benefit of London these beautiful old buildings together with the grounds, intact.

London. West Side of Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The Committee fears the houses on the west side of Lincoln's Inn Fields are in danger of demolition owing to the fact of the new street, from Holborn to the Strand, coming so close to the rear of them as not to allow space for suitable buildings to be erected facing the new street.

We are afraid that the owners of the houses may be tempted to clear their sites with a view to taking advantage of their valuable new frontage.

The Society called the attention of the London County Council to this danger, but we regret to say apparently without result.

We need hardly point out the great loss which

London would sustain if these quiet and dignified buildings were destroyed.

The interiors contain rich and valuable work and London can ill afford to lose any work by so great a master as Inigo Jones.

Long Bennington Church, Lincs.

The following appeared in the *Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury*, of April 7th, 1899 :—

“LONG BENNINGTON CHURCH. PROPOSED VANDALISM.—Mr. Thackeray Turner, Secretary to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 10, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C., has, on behalf of the Society, addressed a letter to the vicar, churchwardens, and lady of the manor of Long Bennington, intimating that the Society has received with great sorrow a letter from the Rev. D. W. Rees confirming a report that it is intended to take down Long Bennington Parish Church and rebuild it in the centre of the village. The loss that would thus be inflicted would be felt by the present and future generations. It is pointed out that a removed and rebuilt church is incapable of producing the same effect upon the mind and arousing the same emotions as the original building did. The appeal for funds which has been issued dwells upon the advantage of the parish church again becoming the centre of Church work ; but surely the value of outposts should not be overlooked. It also implies that unless taken down Long Bennington Church must become a ruin ; but this ought scarcely to be the case, as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings had it surveyed about ten years ago, when it was reported to be in a fairly substantial condition. The Society is willing to have the Church again surveyed free of charge, and to report upon its present condition and the measures required for its preservation, and from its great experience in dealing with ancient buildings it quite hopes to be able to point out some inexpensive

mode of averting such a disaster. Much might be said as to the peculiar architectural and artistic claims of Long Bennington Church ; but the Society wishes rather to look at the matter from a higher level, and to show that from the point of view of the benefit of the parishioners and the sacred purposes for which the Church was founded, its destruction would be alike a mistake and a misfortune."

Navestock Church, Essex.

At the request of the vicar and churchwarden this church was visited by the Society and a report forwarded.

The building needs some repair, and the Committee is glad to be able to report that the work has been placed in the hands of an architect in whom it has confidence, and who will give it personal supervision on the spot—a most important point when dealing with an ancient building.

Nether Hall, Roydon, Essex.

Probably there is documentary evidence of the date of this building, but it appears to be of fifteenth century work. It should, however, be studied in conjunction with Rye House, which is about four miles distant.

There is a wide moat enclosing a rectangular piece of ground, the side parallel to the main road being rather the longest.

The house occupies one of the narrower sides, and must have taken up the whole frontage, the entrance gateway being in the middle, and the more important rooms of the house immediately over it. At the oppo-

site end of the parallelogram, on the left-hand corner after passing through the gateway, there is a beautiful little octagonal building called the summer-house, with a doorway leading down to the moat as well as another leading into the courtyard, and it is of a defensive character.

The moat still retains its original wall a few feet above the water-line, and the old garden wall remains.

It will be seen from this slight description that Nether Hall must at one time have been a building of considerable importance.

Now, however, it is in urgent need of repair, but it does not seem to be anybody's business to look after it.

It is thought that this and other societies might probably be able to bring about a better condition of affairs. Therefore a Committee has been formed of the representatives of the various societies interested in the preservation of the building, and it is hoped that the owner may consent to transfer to the "National Trust" the freehold of the land on which the building stands, he being allowed still to use the land.

If this transfer is arranged, it might then be possible to put the building into a permanent state of repair through the efforts of the different societies.

Parliamentary Amenities Committee.

A conference was held at the House of Commons on the 23rd of June, 1898:

Present: Mr. James Bryce, M.P., in the chair; the Duke of Westminster, the Earl of Stamford, Mr. H. O.

Arnold-Forster, M.P., Lord Balcarras, M.P., Mr. Edward Bond, M.P., Mr. Edmund Boulnois, M.P., Sir John Brunner, Bart., M.P., Mr. Sydney Buxton, M.P., Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., M.P., Mr. E. Brodie Hoare, M.P., Mr. J. Howard, M.P., Mr. Lees Knowles, M.P., Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, M.P., the Rt. Hon. G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, Mr. H. C. F. Luttrell, M.P., Mr. Horace Plunkett, M.P., Mr. W. Lucas Shadwell, M.P., Mr. Percival Birkett, Mr. W. D. Caröe, Mr. L. W. Chubb, Mr. Richardson Evans, Mr. Basil Holmes, Sir Robert Hunter, Dr. G. B. Longstaff, Mr. Ambrose M. Poynter, Mr. John Richmond, Sir William Vincent, Bart.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed :

1. It is desirable to make some permanent arrangement for concerted action between Members of Parliament in both Houses, on questions relating to :

(a) The protection of rural scenes and landscapes and town prospects from such disfigurement or impairment as is not justified by considerations of public utility.

(b) The provision and maintenance of commons, open spaces, public parks and gardens.

(c) The preservation of buildings and places which are of peculiar interest by age, beauty, or association, whether historical or literary.

(d) The conservation of wild animals and plants, and generally for asserting the importance on broad grounds of public policy of maintaining beauty, simplicity, dignity and interest in the aspect of out-of-doors Britain, and that we accordingly express our readiness to co-operate for this purpose, subject always to the exercise of individual judgment on the merits of the particular cases as they arise.

2. That Lord Balcarras, Messrs. Bryce, Boulnois,

Bond and J. M. Paulton be requested to undertake the duty of circulating information, and when deemed expedient, of inviting conference and common action, when it appears that steps may usefully be taken in the House of Lords or the House of Commons respectively.

3. With a view to obtaining the co-operation of the various agencies now in existence for the promotion of the ends indicated, it is suggested that the Committee named in Resolution 2 should place themselves in communication with the representatives of:

The Commons' Preservation Society.

The Metropolitan Public Gardens' Association.

The Kyrle Society.

The National Trust.

The Selborne Society.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

The Society for Checking the Abuses of Public Advertising.

Explanatory Note by Chairman:—It was understood that the several Societies named, though they might find it convenient to correspond with the Members of Parliament named in Resolution 2, or with others interested through a single channel, or to consider the expediency of concert with regard to any matter they feel to be of common interest, should retain unimpaired their entire liberty of separate action.

JAMES BRYCE.

With the approval of the societies named in Resolution 3, Mr. Lawrence W. Chubb, Secretary of the Commons' Preservation Society, has undertaken to receive for submission to the Committee named in Resolution 2, communications relating to any matter falling within the scope of the resolutions on which joint action may be

judged expedient. The Commons' Preservation Society has kindly sanctioned the use of their office, 1, Great College Street, Westminster, S.W., for the purpose.

Meetings of the Secretaries of the various societies interested have been held for the consideration of the best method of working.

We should add that Lord Balcarres, M.P., represented this Society at the Conference at the House of Commons.

Timber Belfry at Pembridge, Herefordshire.

One approaches the old-fashioned village of Pembridge by ascending a steepish bank from the little river Arrow, as it rushes swiftly out of the Radnorshire hills, and on either side of the road are picturesque oak-framed houses which gather themselves into a knot round the summit. But instead of culminating in the usual square church-tower they are focussed round a great grey pile of stone roofs and gables—the nave, transepts, and chancel of a huge church, which looms above the pale walls of the houses in a long cliff-like mass. Detached from this, a few yards to the north, is a tall and singularly shaped timber belfry, which is one of the most remarkable features of a district exceptionally rich in old work.

The bad condition of this belfry led, in the autumn of 1897, to the Society being asked for advice, and to their requesting Mr. J. A. Cossins, of Birmingham, to report on the best way of preserving it. Some months after a sum of money was raised for its repair, and Mr. Cossins undertook the work.

In view of the importance and difficulty of the case the Committee sent one of its members, who had been familiar with the building in its untouched state, to visit Pembridge after the completion of the repairs and examine the old tower; and now they have great pleasure in reporting that the work has been admirably carried out. The tower is not only safe with moderate care for an indefinite number of centuries, but, what is yet more important, is the old tower still.

It is the same tower which has excited the attention of the stranger, the study and admiration of the artist and antiquary, and the affection of the parishioners, for so many generations, and the charm of it is as great as ever. None of that air of venerableness which is part of the noble, indescribable influence which such a building as Pembridge Church exercises over the beholder, and which so frequently disappears in an ordinary "restoration," has been lost; and the old bell-tower is still an integral and harmonious part of a unique and impressive scene.

It is a tall and imposing structure, consisting of a stone base enclosing a considerable area, and roofed with slabs of stone, a boarded storey with a clock above, also roofed with stone, and another still higher stage of open louvre-work covered with a pyramidal roof of shingles. But when the lower storey is entered through a pair of wide doors the interior is found to be a labyrinth of gigantic timbers, such as no English forest could now produce, the chief of which are four huge posts planted in the ground so as to support the bells independently

of the walls. Of these four timbers one was found to be so completely decayed at the base as to give no support at all, while the others being also partially gone, the whole structure was in consequence in great danger. One of the first tasks was to provide, with concrete and brick-work, a solid foundation for these main columns, but to make it still more secure the ancient woodwork has been supplemented by four additional uprights within, which are of great strength and take the direct weight and vibration of the bells. The lower storey, which has loop-holed walls and every appearance of having been used for defence, was in bad condition, and has been carefully repaired; the roofs and weather boarding have been renewed where necessary, and minor works of repair carried out too numerous to give in detail, but the whole building has been made sound; yet the workmanship is so simple and straightforward that it is only at close quarters that it is recognisable as new.

Old Houses at Petersfield, Hants.

We regret to state that the houses at Petersfield, shown in the frontispiece to this report, have been demolished in order to open up the church. These houses were characteristic examples of the kind which gives the old market towns of England their special note and charm, and it is difficult to understand the point of view of their destroyers, since the usual plea that others must be built twice as high, with plate-glass fronts and blue slate roofs, to meet the needs of civilisation, was absent from their minds. It is hoped that this example will

lead members to watch similar buildings in their own districts with greater vigilance than ever.

Romsey Abbey Church.

This building was visited on behalf of the Society by two of its professional members, who were met by the vicar and churchwarden.

A report was in due course forwarded to the authorities, which contained recommendations for putting the building into proper repair. The Society also urged that the pitch of the roof of the south aisle of the choir should not be raised, as the present roof is a fine piece of carpentry and massively constructed, and a new roof would not only be costly, but in its opinion an archaeological blunder. It would necessitate the destruction of early work, and would otherwise disfigure the building.

The authorities, in thanking the Society for its report, stated that they agreed with the first five points mentioned in it, but would like a member to examine some drawings made in 1806 and 1807, before the Society gave a final opinion about the roof of the south aisle of the choir.

A member of the Committee visited Romsey, examined the drawings and the Abbey, and a copy of his report to the Society was sent to the authorities.

In this it was stated that the drawings represent the roof of the south aisle of the choir as at present, and our member concluded as follows:—

“We have at present in the south aisle of the choir, with its low-pitched roof, a piece of architecture on

which the eye can rest with delight ; the roof timbering is generally sound, and can be repaired at moderate cost, and the lead should be re-cast on the spot if necessary.

Even apart from the purely archæological argument, to raise the roof in order that it may conform to a conjectural former plan, however ingeniously the work may be carried out, the venerableness, the surface-beauty, the distinction, of this particular portion of the Abbey will be lost ; instead of a beautiful old building, you will have a poor imitation of an old one at which few of us will wish to look twice, and another link in the chain of facts which make up the history of the building will have been utterly lost."

From a notice which has appeared in the public press it seems clear that the desire for uniformity is so great, that the authorities intend to raise the aisle roof, in spite of the irrefutable arguments put forth by the Society, and the Committee therefore will now feel bound to oppose this destructive scheme so far as lies within its power.

Wall Painting, Ruabon Church.

In compliance with a request made by a local gentleman, the distemper wall-painting in Ruabon Church was inspected by a professional member of the Society.

The painting is on the south wall of the south aisle of the Church, and is about twelve feet long and seven feet high. It represents the "Acts of Charity"—a favourite subject for church pictures—and is a very interesting example of the pictorial art of the fifteenth century. The outlines of the figures and the folds of the draperies are represented by bold, firm lines in red

on a buff ground. The work is remarkably complete no part having been absolutely lost, although in some places the lines and washes of red are very much faded, and here and there only to be made out with difficulty, and the work is gradually becoming less and less distinct because of damp.

In its report, the Society recommended that the whole of the length of wall under the painting should be underpinned, in order that a sheet of lead might be introduced as a damp course for the full thickness of the wall, and then to wait to see what effect this has on the painting.

The Committee fears that as the building is lighted by gas, unless the use of gas is discontinued, hardly anything can save the painting from ultimate ruin, for the fumes given off by gas, as shown by the report which Professor Church kindly made for the Society, are more destructive than almost anything else.

Southampton. The Bargate.

The suggested destruction of this building called forth so many protests from all parts of the country that it is hardly necessary for us to report that the Society did what it could to defeat the proposal.

Happily the Town Council decided that the structure of the Bargate should not be interfered with, but that the level of the roadway should be lowered, so as to provide the necessary space for the electric tramways.

How far this decision will meet the necessities of the

case remains to be proved, but public opinion is so strongly opposed to any mutilation of the Bargate, that we do not think it is likely to be again threatened; still it is the duty of the Society to watch such buildings, and our members may rely upon our doing so in this instance.

A special feature of the opposition was that it was to a considerable extent arranged by the inhabitants of Southampton, and it would be a matter of satisfaction to this Society if the dwellers in other places would follow their example, as without doubt local opinion has great weight in the minds of the general public.

Tamworth Castle.

We mentioned in the report for 1897 that the Society had offered the Town Council a report upon Tamworth Castle. This offer was accepted and a report has been sent and a vote of thanks passed by the Town Council and forwarded to the Society.

The buildings are in a remarkably good state of preservation, but some repairs are needed, and the foundations want careful attention.

Throwley Hall, Staffordshire.

The Hall at Throwley must at one time have been a building of considerable interest, but it is now roofless and ruinous.

The Society had its attention drawn to the matter and approached the owner with a view to the building being repaired if possible. The owner met the Society

in a courteous manner, and although he did not see his way to spending money upon the building, he offered to grant a long lease at a nominal rent to anyone undertaking to repair it.

Our local correspondent, who took an interest in the building and to whom we are greatly indebted, obtained a report from a professional friend in whom the Society has confidence. We find from this report that to fit the building for use would require the expenditure of a large sum of money, and would result in the introduction of a considerable amount of modern work, such as roof timbers, ceilings, floors, partitions, glass and lead to windows, etc.

The Committee, therefore, came to the conclusion that it would be unwise for the Society to move further in the matter, and much as we regret it, we fear the building will be destroyed, as the necessary repairs needed to keep it as a ruin, as at present, would probably cost £150 to execute.

West Stafford Church, near Dorchester.

A note respecting some proposed alterations in this Church appeared in the Twenty-first Annual Report of the Committee issued in 1898.

On the ground that more accommodation was required in the Church, though it appeared to our local correspondent, who visited the building, that it was amply sufficient for all the ordinary requirements of the parish, the rector and members of the local Committee decided to remodel the Church.

Rejecting the suggestion made by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings of throwing out a transept on the north side, and leaving the remainder of the church intact, the local Committee has adhered to its own plan. The east wall has been pulled down and rebuilt about sixteen feet further to the east, and its east window has been raised some feet, so as to mar the pleasant proportions of the original east wall, and the north and south walls have been lengthened, thus the proportions of the parallelogram of which the Church consists have been greatly changed, and the change is far from being an improvement; as the Church seen from the west end looks far too long for its width and height.

The screen and pulpit have been moved further to the east and the nave has been reseated. The carved pew doors have been converted into bench ends, so that while some of the old woodwork has been preserved, the character of the seats has been entirely changed. The west gallery has been renovated. The picturesque tower has remained untouched; a stone trench has been run round the building, which we feel to be a misfortune. Although open drains are necessary where the surface of the earth has risen considerably, so as to be far above the floor of the building, these open drains are nevertheless an eyesore, and in this case, a professional member of the Society who also surveyed the building, advises us that there was no need for such a drain.

Serle's House, Winchester.

A report reached the Society to the effect that the War Office contemplated removing this building, which is architecturally interesting and historically valuable as being the central spot of Wren's scheme of buildings and terraces to be extended right down to the west end of the Cathedral.

The Society addressed the War Office upon the subject and received the following satisfactory reply :

WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.
April 25th, 1899.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 14th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that there is no intention to remove the building known as Serle's House, Winchester.

It will be necessary to make some slight structural alterations in order to adapt it for the purpose required, but the existing architectural features will not be affected thereby.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. V. H. KNOX.

THACKERAY TURNER, ESQ., *Secretary,*
Society for Protection of Ancient
Buildings.

Worstead Church, Norfolk.

The Church at Worstead is an edifice of very great beauty and architectural merit, but in need of considerable repair.

A special survey of the building was made by the Society, and a report sent to the vicar, who very kindly allowed us to see the specification for the proposed works to the roofs.

We found the advice given in this specification was diametrically opposed to that given in the Society's report. It is proposed to make modern carved angels and other ornamental woodwork to take the place of what is missing. This the Committee considers to be a waste of money, in fact, worse than a waste, for when the new work is in place it can have no artistic merit of its own, and the valuable ancient work which does remain will lose in value by having a doubt thrown upon its authenticity.

Again, it is proposed to place felt upon the roofs, which is, in the opinion of the Committee, most harmful, inasmuch as condensation is formed on the underside of it, and this, falling upon the timbers, from which the necessary air is excluded by the felt, may in time cause decay, as it certainly has in other cases.

We believe the vicar fully appreciates the building and sees that it is of more than local interest, but if, as we understand, the whole of the works are to be carried out on the lines mentioned in the specification for the roofs, the general result will be unsatisfactory, and instead of the building benefiting by being put into a proper state of repair, it will lose a great part of its interest and authentic character by the introduction of imitative work.

York Minster.

The following letter, which appeared in the *Yorkshire Herald* of March 20th, 1899, explains the point of view taken by the Society in this matter.

To the Editor of the *Yorkshire Herald*.

SIR,—The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings thoroughly endorses the Dean's suggestion of raising a capital sum of £50,000, the income only of which is to be applied towards structural repairs of York Minster, and in fact it has already advised members, who have applied for its advice, to subscribe to such fund under the conditions to be presently stated. In giving such advice the Society cannot, however, but feel that it is incurring considerable responsibility, and that it may well be asked, "Why are we pressed to give more money for an object which has hitherto proved so futile, seeing that, notwithstanding the thousands which have been spent not only on York Minster, but on Peterborough, Canterbury, Chichester, and other cathedrals, we are continually hearing of their being in an unsafe condition?" Is this inevitable? If so, what is the use of our giving more? if not, whose fault is it, and how is it to be remedied? To this my Society would unhesitatingly reply, "It is the fault of the subscribing public, who will not give unless they have something smart to show for their money, and it can and will be remedied if a large section of the subscribers make their contributions conditional upon the funds being used solely for such underpinning, upholding, supporting, strengthening and repairing as are necessary to enable us to transmit the building to our descendants intact with all its wealth of interest and accumulation of the history of centuries; and that until this end has been attained nothing shall be spent upon embellishment." It would be a great gain

if people could see that the foremost need is the constant personal supervision of the architect, and that no reasonable expenditure to secure this should be grudged, for, however trustworthy a clerk of works may be, such a building as York Minster should not be left to a deputy, but the responsible architect should at any moment be at his elbow in consultation over every movement in the repairs, examining and testing all materials, and closely watching even the smallest details, such, for instance, as the mixing of cement, which clerks of works and workmen almost always use unscientifically—the science being to find out how small a proportion of cement can in each particular case be used with the sand.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

THACKERAY TURNER,

*Secretary of the Society for the Protection
of Ancient Buildings.*

London, March 15th, 1899.

The following is a list of the Buildings which have come before the Society during the year :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| Abbey Dore Church, Herefordshire | Brede Place, Sussex |
| Aberdeen, Greyfriars Church | Bristol, The Castle Bank |
| Acle Church, Norfolk | Bristol, The Cat and Wheel, Castle Hill |
| Addlethorpe Church, Lincs. | Bristol, St. Peter's Hospital, The Court Room |
| Aldershot, Hants, Old Parish Church | Bristol, Old Houses, Redland |
| Ashton Church, Devonshire | Broughton Church, Hants |
| Aston-le-Walls Church-Tower, Northants | Burford, Oxon, Old Priory |
| Avignon, France, Ancient Buildings | Byland Abbey, Yorks |
| Bacton Abbey, Bromeholme, Norfolk | Caergwre Castle, Flints. |
| Bath Abbey Church | Caldy, Pembrokeshire, Priory Remains |
| Bath, Nassau House | Cambridge, Old Houses, Emmanuel Lane |
| Bawtry Church, Yorks. | Cambridge, Queen's College |
| Beaconsfield, Bucks., Old Rectory | Canvey Island, Essex, Dutch Cottage |
| Beauvais Cathedral, France | Carlton Scroope Ch., Lincs. |
| Bedford, The Old Priory | Chard, Somerset "Norrington's" |
| Belchalwell Church, Dorset | Chepstow Castle, Monmouthshire |
| Belchamp, St. Paul Ch., Essex | Chester, Bishop Lloyd's House |
| Beoley, Worcestershire, Gascot Hall | Chichester Cathedral, Sussex |
| Bidford Church, Warwickshire | Chieveley Church, Berks. |
| Bozeat Church, Northants | Chingford, Essex, Queen Elizabeth's Lodge |
| Bramber Church, Sussex | |

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Clare Church Tower, Suffolk | Ely, Cambs., Cromwell's House |
| Claverley, Salop, Old Parsonage | Evesham, Worcestershire, Ab- |
| Clonfert Cathedral, Co. Galway | bot Reginald's Gateway |
| Colchester, St. Giles's Church, | Exeter, Devonshire, The |
| Essex | Guildhall |
| Colchester, St. Martin's Church | Eyton Hall, Herefordshire |
| Tower, Essex | Florence, Destructive Works in |
| Conway, Carnarvonshire, Arch- | Fotheringhay Ch., Northants |
| bishop's House | Framsden, Suffolk, St. Mary's |
| Conway Castle, Carnarvonsh. | Church |
| Corhampton Church, Hants | Frenze Church, Norfolk |
| Cranworth Church, Norfolk | Friston Church Tower, Suffolk |
| Cromarty Church, N.B. | Gainsborough, Lincs., Old Hall |
| Croxden Abbey, Staffs. | Gloucester Cathedral |
| Croydon, Surrey. Whitgift | Goosey Church, Berks. |
| Almshouses | Grantchester Church Tower, |
| Denbigh, St. George's Church | Cambs. |
| Denbigh, St. Hilary's Church | Gravenhurst Church, Beds. |
| Denbigh, Priory Chapel | Grayne Church. Kent. |
| Denbigh, Whit-Church | Great Easton, Rutlandshire, |
| Derrylossory Ch., Co. Wicklow | Ancient Well |
| Donyatt Chapel, Somerset | Great Hampden Ch., Bucks. |
| Dulverton Bridge, Somerset | Great Missenden Ch., Bucks. |
| Eashing Bridge, Surrey | Great Snoring Church, Norfolk |
| East Guildford Church, Sussex | Gringley-on-the-Hill Ch., Notts. |
| East Horndon Church, Essex | Grimstone Ch., Leicestershire |
| Edgefield Church, Norfolk | Haddon Hall, Derbyshire |
| Eglingham Church, Northum- | Hampton-in-Arden Bridge, |
| berland | Warwickshire |
| Eglwys Brewis Church, Gla- | Harrow-on-the-Hill Church, |
| morganshire | Middlesex, Pulpit |
| Eglwyscunmin Church, Car- | Harvington Manor House, |
| marthenshire | Worcestershire. |

- Haverhill Ch. Tower, Suffolk
 Heacham Church, Norfolk
 Heckingham Church, Norfolk
 Hempstead Church, Norfolk
 Henley-in-Arden Church, Warwickshire
 Hever Castle, Kent
 Hexham Abbey Church, Northumberland
 High Wycombe, Bucks., Norman Remains
 Hitchin Old Church, Herts.
 Holywell, Flints., St. Winefride's Well
 Horndon-on-the-Hill Church, Essex
 Huddington Church, Worcestershire
 Hull, Yorks., Holy Trinity Ch.
 Huntingdon, The Grammar School
 Ingleby Church, Yorks.
 Inglesham Church, Wilts.
 Inwardleigh Ch., Devonshire
 Ipswich, Suffolk, St. Mary Key Church
 Kempley Ch., Gloucestershire
 Kingsland, Herefordshire, Old House
 Langley Chapel, Salop
 Langley Church, Bucks.
 Launceston Castle, Cornwall
 Launton Church, Oxon.
 Leicester, St. Mary's Church
 Leicester, Trinity Hospital
 Leicester, Old Tower, High St.
 Lessingham Church, Norfolk
 Little Oakley Church, Essex
 Llanddew Church, Breconshire
 Llanthony Abbey Ruins, Gloucestershire
 Llantwit Major Church, Glamorganshire
 London, Ancient Buildings in
 London, Bromley, E., Tudor House
 London, Cheapside, St. Mary-le-Bow Church
 London, Christ's Hospital, Newgate Street
 London, City Churches
 London, Clerkenwell, Crypt under the Priory Church of St. John
 London, Ironmongers' Almshouses, Kingsland Road
 London, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Houses West side of
 London, Newgate Prison
 London, St. Paul's Cathedral
 London, Stratford-Bow, St. Mary's Church
 London, The Temple, E.C. Gateways to
 London, Wandsworth Common, "The Gables"

London, Westminster Abbey
 London, Westminster, Blue
 Coat School, Caxton Street
 Long Bennington Ch., Lincs.
 Long Crendon, Bucks., An-
 cient Court House
 Loxbear Church, Devonshire
 Ludlow, Salop, Barnaby House
 Lyte's Carey, nr. Glastonbury
 Malmesbury Abbey, Wilts.
 Merevale Ch., Warwickshire
 Methwold, Norfolk, Old House
 Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire,
 Monastic Remains, near
 Navestock Church, Essex
 Neatishead Church, Norfolk
 Nether Hall, Roydon, Essex
 Newton Church, Oxon.
 Newton-under-Roseberry Ch.,
 Yorks.
 Norbury Church, Derbyshire
 Northfield Ch., Worcestershire
 Norwich, Church of St. John
 de Sepulchre
 Norwich, The Strangers' Hall
 Odiham Church, Hants.
 Oulton Church, Norfolk
 Oxford, Old Buildings
 Paisley Abbey, N.B.
 Pembridge, Herefordshire, Bell
 Tower
 Petersfield, Hants., Old Houses
 in the Market Place

Petersham Church, Surrey
 Pocklington Church, Yorks.
 Pontefract Church and Ruins,
 Yorks.
 Poole, Dorset, The Town
 Cellars
 Preston Church, Sussex
 Prittlewell, Essex, "Reynolds"
 Ranworth Church, Norfolk
 Rome, Protestant Cemetery
 Rome, The Forum
 Romsey, Abbey Church, Hants.
 Ruabon Church, Denbighshire,
 Wall Painting
 St. David's Cathedral, Pem-
 brokeshire
 St. Kenelm's Ch., Worcestershire
 Salisbury, Wilts., Crane Bridge
 Shotley Church, Suffolk
 Snape Church, Suffolk
 Southampton, The Bargate
 Southampton, Town Walls
 South Benfleet Church, Essex
 Southchurch Church, Essex
 South Scarle Church, Notts.
 South Witham Church, Lincs.
 Sotterley Church, Suffolk
 Steeple Gidding Ch., Hunts.
 Stewkley Church, Bucks.
 Stoke Dry Ch., Leicestershire
 Stratford Church, Suffolk
 Streeton Parva Church, Leices-
 tershire

Tamworth Castle, Staffs.	Wanborough Church, Wilts.
Tasburgh Church, Norfolk	Warborough Church, Oxon.
Taunton Castle, Somersetshire	West Stafford Church, Dorset
Thetford, Norfolk, Town Hall	Whitchurch, Middlesex. St.
Thorpe Mandeville Church.	Lawrence Church
Northants.	Wickhamford Church. Wor-
Throwley Hall, Staffs.	cestershire
Thwing Church, Yorkshire	Winchester, Alfred Memorial
Tintern Abbey, Monmouthshire	(proposed)
Trimley St. Martin Ch., Suffolk	Winchester, Serle's House
Trowse Church, Norfolk	Woodplumpton Ch., Lancs.
Turkdean Ch., Gloucestershire	Worstead Church. Norfolk
Venice, Doge's Palace	Wye College, Kent
Wakefield Cathedral, Yorks.	York Minster
Walsoken Church, Norfolk	

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1898.

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RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance at 31st December, 1897:—	14 16 4	By Payments during the year 1898:—	
As per last statement		Printing	30 4 10
Receipts during the year 1898:—		Office Expenses, including Secretary's Travelling Expenses	31 1 4
Annual Subscriptions	288 19 0	Members' Travelling Expenses	17 10 11
Donations	20 9 0	Secretary's Salary (including £30 owing from 1897)	150 0 0
Donation for Bow Church	5 0 0	Clerk's Salary	68 0 0
Repair Fund		Rent of Office	21 0 0
Received for Travelling Expenses in Visiting Churches, etc.	1 3 6	Treasurer of Bow Church	
	315 11 6	Repair Fund	5 0 0
			322 17 1
		" Cash at London City and Midland Bank, 31st December, 1898	6 1 11
		" Cash at Office	1 8 10
			7 10 9
			£330 7 10

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct,

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Auditor.

21st April, 1899

LIST OF MEMBERS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, £1 1s. or 10s. 6d.

Subscriptions to be sent to the Secretary, THACKERAY TURNER, 10, Buckingham Street, Adelphi.

Post Office Orders should be made payable at the General Post Office. Cheques should be crossed "London City and Midland Bank."

Bankers—London City and Midland Bank, Ltd., 449, Strand, W.C.

* These form the Committee.

† Local Correspondents.

A. C. Ainger, *Eton College.*

Mrs. Frank Ainsworth, *Lostock Dene, Lostock, near Bolton.*

*W. C. Alexander, *Aubrey House, Kensington.*

Mrs. Alexander, *Aubrey House, Kensington.*

W. H. Allchin, M.D., 5, *Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.*

A. Anderson, 30, *Oxford Square, W.*

Miss Sara Anderson, 46, *Warwick Gardens, Kensington.*

*T. Armstrong

Rev. N. Green Armytage, *Boston, Lincs.*

Edward Arnold, *White Hall, Chichester.*

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Job Ashton.

List of Members.

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Mrs. T. J. Cobden-Sanderson, 7, *Hammersmith Terrace, W.*

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 F. Holiday.

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 R. Tierney Hughes.

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 Rev. Sydney James, *Malvern College, Malvern.*

List of Members.

89

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Henry Arthur Jones, *Townsend House, Regent's Park, N.W.*
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*Charles G. Leland.
Rev. Canon Lester, *Everton, Liverpool.*
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- George A. Macmillan, *19, Earl's Terrace, Kensington, W.*
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- R. O. Moon, *16, St. Peter's Street, Winchester.*
- J. A. Moran, *149, Strand, W.C.*
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- Miss Morris, *Kelmscott Manor, Lechlade.*

List of Members.

91

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A. J. Munby, F.S.A., 6, *Fig Tree Court, Temple.*
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Rev. Samuel Pearson, *The Manse, Lightcliff, near Halifax.*
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 Miss Theodora Powell, *West Mount, Guildford.*
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 Cormell Price, *38, Powis Square, W.*
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 Robert Proctor, *Oxshort, near Leatherhead.*
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 R. A. Vaughan Pryce, *New College, Hampstead.*
 Ernest Radford, *Hillside, Liverpool Road, Kingston-on-Thames.*
 George Rae, *Devonshire Road, Birkenhead.*
 W. G. Rawlingson, *Hill Lodge, Campden Hill Square, W.*
 *Essex E. Reade, *24, South Audley Street, W. (Hon. Secretary.)*
 S. E. Spring Rice, *1, Bryanston Place, W.*
 *John Richmond, *7, Great College Street, Westminster, S.W.*
 *Sir W. B. Richmond, *K.C.B., R.A., Beaver Lodge, Hammersmith.*
 Walter C. Richmond, *The Hollies, Potter's Bar.*
 A. Wallace Rimington.
 Mrs. Robb, *46, Rutland Gate, S.W.*
 Dr. Lloyd Roberts, *23, St. John's Street, Manchester.*
 Miss Roberts, *Kelmscott Manor, Lechlade.*
 W. Graham Robertson, *28, Rutland Gate, S.W.*
 Sir J. C. Robinson, *F.S.A., 107, Harley Street, W.*
 Vincent Robinson, *F.S.A., Hopedene, Felday, Dorking.*
 E. F. Robson, *Grosvenor Club, Bond Street, W.*
 Rev. Dr. Rogers, *The Grove, Barton Fields, Canterbury.*
 W. A. Rollason, *The White House, Truro, Cornwall.*
 T. M. Rooke, *7, Queen Anne's Gardens, Bedford Park, Chiswick.*
 Charles Rowley, *Handforth, Cheshire.*
 F. G. Rücker, *4, Paper Buildings, Temple.*
 *John Ruskin, *D.C.L., Brantwood, Coniston.*
 Hon. H. D. Ryder, *High Ashurst, Dorking.*
 J. E. Sandys, *Litt. D., Merton House, Cambridge.*
 Frank Sanguinetti, *Ealing Dean, W.*

Henry Seymour.

J. Shand, *Parkholme, Elm Park Gardens, S.W.*

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Mrs. Walter Sickert.

M. E. S.

Sir John Simon, K.C.B., F.R.S., 40, *Kensington Square.*

Richard Sisley, M.D., *Ockford House, Godalming.*

John H. Skilbeck, 16, *Portman Mansions, W.*

Edwin Smith, 33, *Wheeley's Road, Birmingham.*

Miss Leigh Smith, *Campagne Montfeld, Mustapha, Supérieur, Algeria.*

H. C. Sorby, LL.D., *Broomfield, Sheffield.*

Joseph E. Southall, 13, *Charlotte Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.*

Hugh Stannus, 61, *Larkhall Rise, Clapham.*

Robert Steele, *Chemical Society, Burlington House, W.*

*Leslie Stephen, 13, *Hyde Park Gate South.*

M. Stephenson.

Miss Frances Sterling, 18, *Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, W.*

J. Ashby Sterry, *St. Martin's Chambers, Trafalgar Square.*

Miss E. C. Stevenson, 13, *Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh.*

*J. J. Stevenson, F.S.A., 4, *Porchester Gardens, W.*

†Mrs. Charles Stewart, 38, *Eaton Place, S.W.*

J. P. Stilwell, *Hilfield, Yateley, Hants.*

W. A. Sugden, 25, *Victoria Terrace, Keighley.*

*Larner Sugden, F.R.I.B.A., *Leek, Staffordshire.*

James S. Sullivan, *Onslow, Darlaston Road, Wimbledon.*

Heywood Sumner, *Sherryvore, Alumchine Road, Bournemouth.*

*Sir L. Alma-Tadema, R.A., 17, *Grove End Road, St. John's Wood.*

Mrs. G. T. Talbot, *Tyn-y-ffynon, Barmouth, N. Wales.*

H. Ogle Tarbolton.

Miss Helen Taylor, *Avignon, France.*

Mrs. E. Seymer Thompson, *Christ's College, Cambridge.*

F. E. Thompson, 48, *Eaton Rise, Ealing, W.*

H. R. Thorpe, 5, *Lenton Avenue, Nottingham.*

†Mrs. Roby Thorpe, *The Park, Nottingham.*

Hamo Thornycroft, R.A., *Moreton House, Melbury Road, W.*

- Percy M. Thornton, M.P., *Battersea Rise, S.W.*
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 H. T. Timmins, "*The Haven*," *Harrou-on-the-Hill.*
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 G. G. T. Treherne, 26, *Brunswick Gardens, Camden Hill.*
 Sydney Tugwell, 18, *Beanfort Street, Chelsea.*
 G. I. F. Tupper, 139, *Cold Harbour Lane, Camberwell.*
 Miss C. Turle, 158, *Cromwell Road, S.W.*
 Miss S. A. Turle, *Horsell, near Woking, Surrey.*
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 Rev. J. R. Turner, *Wroughton Rectory, Swindon.*
 Mrs. Thackeray Turner, 90, *Gower Street, W.C.*
 Mrs. Fisher Unwin, 10, *Hereford Square, South Kensington, S.W.*
 W. H. Urwick, 34, *Great Tower Street, E.C.*
 Rev. J. J. C. Valpy, *Elsing Rectory, E. Dereham.*
 Rev. Sydney Vatcher, *St. Philip's Vicarage, London Hospital, Stepney, E.*
 E. L. Vaughan, *Eton College, Windsor.*
 H. Vaughan, F.S.A., 28, *Cumberland Terrace, Regent's Park.*
 Rev. Hamilton Stewart Verschoyle, *Courmayeur, Val d'Aosta, Italy.*
 †J. F. Wadmore, *Dry Hill, Tonbridge.*
 *Emery Walker, 3, *Hammersmith Terrace, W.*
 J. L. Walker.
 F. S. Waller, 17, *College Green, Gloucester.*
 †F. W. Waller, Jun., 17, *College Green, Gloucester.*
 *G. Y. Wardle.
 *†Sir Thomas Wardle, *St. Edward Street, Leek.*
 Prof. G. C. Warr, 16, *Earl's Terrace, Kensington Road, W.*
 Alfred Watkins, *Hampton Park, Hereford.*
 James Watts, *Abney Hall, Cheadle, Cheshire.*
 G. F. Watts, R.A., *Little Holland House, Melbury Road, Kensington.*
 H. S. Webb, *New Place, Welwyn, Herts.*
 *Philip Webb, 1, *Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn.*
 Rev. Prebendary Webb, *Chichester.*
 Mrs. Gerald Wellesley, 33, *Portman Square, W.*

List of Members.

95

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Denham Westmacott, 1, *Whitehall Place, S.W.*
*F. A. White, 2, *Lime Street Square, E.C.*
W. Hale White, 5, *High Wickham, Hastings.*
James Whitfield, *Forest Road, Moseley, Birmingham.*
Rev. R. Y. Whytehead, *Campsall Vicarage, Doncaster.*
Arthur Wightman, *Bank Chambers, George Street, Sheffield.*
James Williams, *Beechwood, Sanderstead Road, South Croydon.*
Miss Williams, 4, *Vicarage Gate, Kensington, W.*
†G. C. Williamson, D.Litt., *The Mount, Guildford.*
Mrs. Wills, 29, *Lower Seymour Street, Portman Square, W.*
†Arthur Wilson, 30, *Ashbourne Road, Derby.*
Thomas T. Wing, *Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey.*
Mrs. Winkworth, *Holly Lodge, Campden Hill, W.*
*Charles C. Winmill, *The Briars, Chelmsford Road, Woodford, Essex.*
*A. Stuart-Wortley.
R. G. K. Wrench, *Kingsgate Street, Winchester.*
Rev. C. H. Wright, *Keston Rectory, Beckenham.*
The Hon. Sir R. S. Wright, *Headley Park, Liphook, Hampshire.*
A. G. Wyand, 41, *Wolverton Road, West Norwood.*
Rev. C. F. Wyatt, *Broughton Rectory, Banbury.*
*Hon. Percy Wyndham, 44, *Belgrave Square.*
Miss Harriot Yorke, 190, *Marylebone Road, N.W.*
J. R. Yorke, 2, *Chesham Street, W.*
Count Zorzi, *Venice.* (Hon. Mem.)

If any Member finds his or her name incorrectly given, the Secretary will be obliged by the error being pointed out to him.

OBITUARY.

The Society regrets the loss by death of the following Members .—

Miss Faulkner.

Hon. Norman Grosvenor.

W. H. Hammond-Jones.

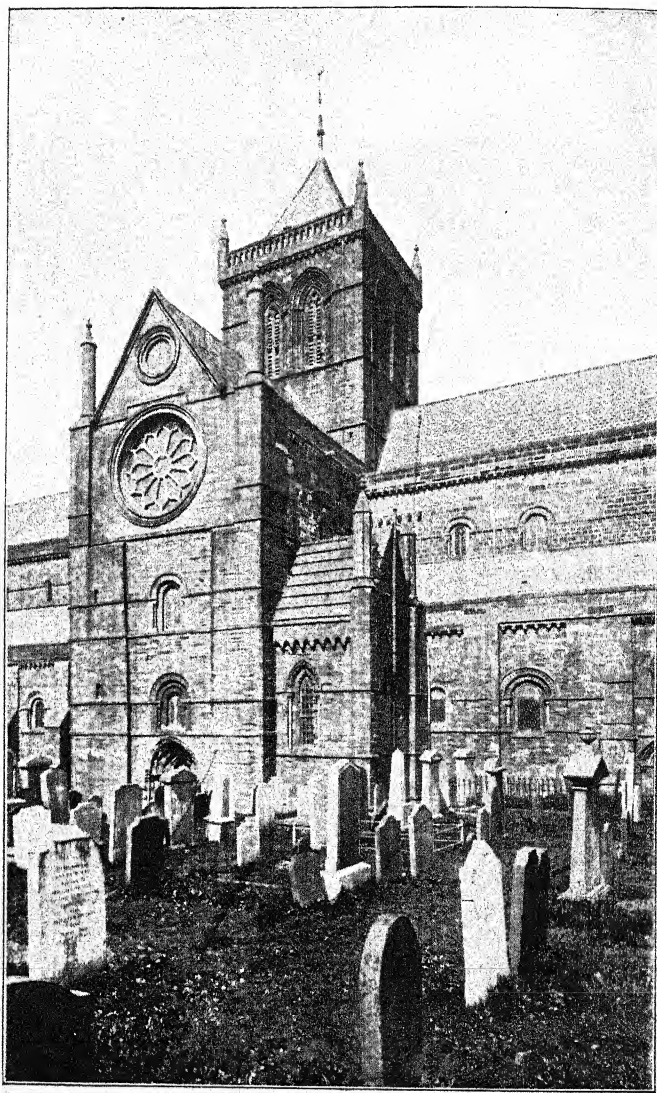
Major Alfred Heales, F.S.A.

A. A. Ionides.

Il Professore Tito V. Paravicini.

The Earl of Wharnccliffe.





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CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS, KIRKWALL,
ORKNEY, N.B.

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

The General Meeting of the Society ;
Twenty-Third Annual Report of the
Committee ; and Paper read by
Miss May Morris

JUNE, 1900

THACKERAY TURNER,

Secretary.

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Sir L. ALMA-TADEMA, R.A.
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Rt. Hon. Lord AVEBURY,
F.R.S., F.S.A.
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W. R. LETHABY
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TON, Q.C.
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ALFRED MARKS
A. H. HALLAM MURRAY, F.S.A.
PHILIP NORMAN, F.S.A.
Rev. T. W. NORWOOD
C. KEGAN PAUL

Committee.

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ESSEX E. READE	GEO. Y. WARDLE
JOHN RICHMOND	Sir THOMAS WARDLE
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W.C.

JOHN RUSKIN, 1819-1900

It seems but a little while since the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings had to lament the death of its most strenuous founder and advocate, William Morris. It has now sorrowfully to strike from its list of members the name of John Ruskin. His first serious writing, in 1837, was on *The Poetry of Architecture*. Twelve years later he published the *Seven Lamps*, and in that work set down for all time the principles which should govern the treatment of ancient buildings. In 1854 he wrote another passionate appeal on their behalf, and pleaded for the establishment of a Society to watch and guard them. "The restorations," he said, "have actually begun like cancers on every important piece of Gothic architecture in Christendom; the question is only how much can yet be saved. All projects, all pursuits, having reference to art, are at this moment of less importance than those which are simply protective." In the remaining years of a long life Ruskin's voice was raised again and again to denounce this craze for "restoration," and when he found that his words were but little heeded, he trained artists and spent time and fortune on the making of faithful records of threatened buildings. These may now be seen at Sheffield and elsewhere. His last public act was in connection with the memorial raised by the Society in 1897 against the rebuilding of part of the west front of Peterborough Cathedral, which he had drawn as a boy. To this memorial he added a pathetic signature, traced with evident difficulty by a hand that had lost its cunning. As this will be of interest to many of our members it is here reproduced.

"DO NOT LET US TALK THEN OF RESTORATION, THE THING IS A LIE FROM BEGINNING TO END."

John Ruskin

NOTES ON THE SOCIETY'S WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR.

St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney.

Our illustration represents the Cathedral Church of St. Magnus, Kirkwall, at present one of the most romantic buildings in Great Britain.

As a scheme for restoration is now being considered, the following letter was sent to the Town Council of Kirkwall, and we understand that the subject is receiving the attention of that body, but we are very anxious as to the result.

It should only be *repaired* by degrees. Any large scheme of "improvement" will be destructive.

ST. MAGNUS CATHEDRAL, KIRKWALL.

To the Town Council of Kirkwall.

GENTLEMEN,

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has had its attention called to the printed matter which has appeared in the local press, upon the above named subject, and after a careful examination of the building it has decided upon venturing to address you.

The principles for the proper repair and maintenance of our ancient buildings have been matured by the Society during twenty-three years of existence, in considering thousands of cases in detail and in acting in a wholly voluntary and disinterested way.

From the beginning it had the active advice and support of such men as John Ruskin, Thomas Carlyle, William Morris and others.

The problem, as they understood it, was to maintain our ancient historical buildings in good constant repair while resisting to the utmost a passing fashion for smartening, scraping and renewing, which in England has largely destroyed the historical authenticity and the beauty of our Cathedrals.

So extensive has been the evil wrought on our great historical monuments by ecclesiastical enthusiasts and eminent architects, with the best intentions, that it is practically impossible for anyone but a trained expert, who will search records, to tell what in any of our great ancient churches really belongs to the twelfth, thirteenth or fourteenth centuries; or what is a mere copy of true ancient work, destroyed to make way for it; or what is entirely modern work designed as it is called "in the style of the original"—that is, really an artistic forgery.

The wonder of St. Magnus is the mass of *true architecture* which remains; work which at a glance we can see dates back to the age of the Norse Earls of Orkney. To enter St. Magnus is to be carried away from our every day life and to be linked in mind with the strange romantic life of the past; we are not confused, not put on our guard, not made critical; but we *feel* this is the *ancient* cathedral of the Northmen, a thing peerless in the whole of Britain.

This is one of the chief attractions which are bringing year by year more travellers to Orkney to the great increase of its prosperity; for there they can enjoy change and romance and beauty, without going to foreign cities. In this sense, while your wonderful

church is especially yours, it is one of the precious treasures of the whole Kingdom, and we trust that this will further justify our venturing to lay our views before you.

As a particular example of what we mean by authenticity in a great historical monument, let us point to the exterior of the south side of the nave and to the east window, as specimens. We might consider these restored portions well done or ill done, but so far as the old surface, which carries instant evidence to our senses that the thing *is* ancient, has been touched, the building has been so far obliterated, and we look on it with just the eyes we should look on a new Bank or Hotel. It may even resemble what was there before, but we do not know, and it is worthless. St. Magnus and the history of Orkney have vanished from it.

We hold that every penny of money called for for absolute repairs, should be spent in doing those repairs as perfectly as possible; but that every penny spent beyond that sum in alterations, renewals, or supposed improvements by addition, will be a certain percentage written off the value of the building.

Of course there are differences; the worst form of work is that which renews, or in the least alters, the present surfaces of the structure; but additions of any kind become more hurtful as they increase in quantity. The *proportion* of old work to the new is continually being lessened; from say ninety per cent. it becomes eighty or fifty, and so on, with exactly corresponding loss in the *appeal* of the building.

It is with very great pleasure that we note that the architect's report recommends that the marvellously beautiful west porches should be left untouched, and that no alteration should be made to the central tower. Only a few years since the most eminent architects would probably have advised that the thirteenth century west doors should all be cleared away and replaced by a copy and conjecture. A doorway, not inferior to these in beauty, was destroyed in this way at Lichfield Cathedral some years ago.

The same principle, however, should apply to the whole of the ancient work inside as well as out, and not an inch of *imitative work* should on any account be allowed in the building. Where new stones must be added for reasons of safety they should in every case be square and unmoulded, even if coming against moulded work, for the object is not to puzzle but to proclaim "this is repair, not a sham."

No merely ornamental parts like the little shafts to the windows should be replaced.

We would earnestly urge that no attempt be made to clear off the remains of whitewash from the interior. It is a mistake to suppose that whitewash is necessarily modern, we have records of its being used in churches from the eighth century onwards, and whitewashers were employed in Westminster Hall and Westminster Abbey just at the time Kirkwall Cathedral was being completed.

At St. Magnus, it is probable that, owing to the darkness of the stone, whitewash was used from the first.

Of course the present screens cutting off the eastern part of the church are poor, but they allow of the space being effectively warmed, and shut off draughts, and they in no sense compete with the old architecture, as modern ornamental work would do.

All *necessary* new work should be absolutely plain and unmoulded, and without any pretence at being Gothic.

Every great building like St. Magnus should be endowed by a considerable capital sum, so that the interest could be applied year by year in constant supervision and small repairs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) THACKERAY TURNER,
Secretary.

3rd March, 1900.

Building Fund.

Some years ago it was suggested that the Society should try to raise a Building Fund, and the Society has, more than once, felt itself compelled to undertake some responsibility with regard to the execution of works under certain conditions.

Taking the two examples of Inglesham Church and Langley Chapel only, it will be seen that the Society has asked for funds to carry out these works. Now it is impossible when appealing for funds to state the exact amount which will finally be required, but if the Society has a Building Fund, we can ask for subscriptions towards that fund to enable us to carry out any particular work, and whatever is over after that work is finished, can be carried forward to the next undertaking.

One of our members, who was a large contributor towards Inglesham Church, has given the amount on condition that if it is not required for Inglesham it may be carried forward towards other works, and, therefore, we have practically a Building Fund started, and the Committee hopes that its members and others will subscribe towards the fund, and so increase the Committee's power for good.

The repair of Inglesham Church is to be finished in memory of William Morris, at whose instance it was begun. There is much talk now of a memorial to John Ruskin, and it may be confidently said that he would have rejoiced to see it take a similar form.

Avonng Church, Gloucestershire.

At our request two of the professional members of

the Society visited this building, which is one of the finest in Gloucestershire, and we have forwarded a report to the rector, setting forth how we consider the building should be treated.

We will say no more at present than that we have received a courteous acknowledgment from the rector, but this is certainly a case in which it is of the utmost importance to get the building repaired in a conservative manner.

The Old Priory, Bedford.

The Society heard that the Corporation of Bedford had acquired a considerable portion of ground which it contemplated applying to the purposes of recreation, and that upon this ground stood some valuable mediæval buildings. It therefore addressed the Town Council upon the subject and offered to report upon the condition of the buildings. This offer was accepted, and in due course a report was sent in to the Town Council, which was printed by that body.

The report stated that there were two mediæval buildings of great interest and in fair preservation upon the site, no doubt the remains of the ancient Priory.

It was pointed out that they were of great value as evidence of the past history of the town, and that it would be a simple matter to put them into repair. The Society suggested that one of the buildings would form a covered playground, and that the other could be retained for a caretaker and the house used for a reading room and other useful purposes.

The Committee regrets, however, to have to report that, in spite of its action and the strenuous efforts of the Mayor (Mr. George Wells), the Town Council decided to destroy the buildings, and they have now been demolished.

In the opinion of the Society there can be no possible excuse for this act of vandalism, when the members of the Town Council knew the buildings to be valuable both architecturally and historically; but apart from this, even from the purely utilitarian point of view, their destruction was a blunder, as there would have been a gain in retaining them and using them for purposes closely connected with recreation.

When old buildings are made the subjects of controversy, those who would preserve are often met with a passionate eagerness to destroy.

Bramber Church, Sussex.

At the request of one of the churchwardens, the Society deputed one of its professional members to survey and report upon this building.

The Church stands close to the Castle and is in substance Norman work. It consists at present of a nave and tower, these being the remains of a large cross church of which the chancel and transepts have disappeared. The capitals of the tower arches have contemporary carvings, and the arches north, south, east and west are still remaining though walled up.

The building has suffered greatly from neglect and

from the enormous overgrowth of ivy, which has split and undermined the walls in various parts.

The west wall is in a very critical condition, and in its report the Society urged that this should be shored up without delay.

Full details were given in the report as to the works necessary to put the building into proper structural condition, but this is one of those cases which necessitate constant personal supervision on the spot by a thoroughly competent man, as the work will need peculiar care and watchfulness.

We gather from the churchwarden that the west end has been shored up, but at present the funds in hand do not admit of any extensive outlay.

The Society hopes that when the works are taken in hand the advice given in its report will be followed.

Clare Church Tower, Suffolk.

With our report last year we issued a leaflet in which we gave a short description of the work then in progress at this building, and we stated that we hoped to give a full report this year.

In 1898 the vicar and churchwardens approached us with a view to obtaining the Society's advice upon the tower, as they had been advised by an architect that their only course was to entirely rebuild it.

The building was therefore visited by Mr. Detmar Blow and the Secretary, and they came to the conclusion that with care the tower could be effectively repaired. The vicar and churchwardens decided to

follow our advice, and the work of repair has been carried out under the personal direction of Mr. Detmar Blow, who had the assistance of Mr. James Neil of East Knoyle and other skilful masons.

The tower, which is of great value, was built in the 13th century and altered and added to in the 15th century. This later work consists of a belfry with buttresses, and a large west window lighting the nave of the church, and is a part of a plan of enlargement then carried out to the now famous choir and nave.

The 15th century work failed owing to the strain of the bells, and, as is often the case, it was not of the strength of the earlier work. The mortar had decomposed and the walling was found to be fractured in all directions.

In the 13th century work the mortar proved to be strong, and the walls had fractured in almost a straight line from below the belfry to within 10 feet of the ground.

With the tower fractured in three sections and the later mortar decomposed, the rubble walling had settled considerably, and thrust off the buttresses, which in themselves could not settle, and this resulted in their going out to the side where there was no resistance and in their being left standing bent outwards unattached to the tower.

These buttresses were first shored up, and the strain on them carefully watched as the work of repair proceeded upwards.

From the lowest point of the fractures the disintegrated core of the walls was drawn out yard by yard and reinstated with hard material, the external

stones and the internal ornamental and constructional stones being left in their original positions, but bonded tightly to the new core within.

The west window had to be heavily shored up in dealing with the mass of 15th century decomposed mortar in walling round and above the window, as it had little or no structural capacity to carry the weight of the wall above.

The cost of the work was £1,300, to meet which subscriptions were raised from all parts of the country by the vicar.

Clonfert Cathedral.

From time to time the custodians of this building have issued appeals for help in which use has been made of the late Mr. Ruskin's name as being a subscriber to the funds. As Mr. Ruskin was a member of this Society, and as we knew that certain portions of the work had been done in a manner of which he would not approve, we wrote to him upon the subject.

We were informed that a donation was sent to the rector in Mr. Ruskin's name with a letter, the purport of which was to convey his sympathy in regard to the work he understood to be necessary for the *preservation of the porch*, and pointing out distinctly his objection to what is known as "restoration."

Mr. Ruskin's secretary also mentioned that he had written to the rector pointing out the mistake into which he had fallen and asking him to discontinue the use of Mr. Ruskin's name in his appeals, and that the rector

has in consequence stated that "in any appeal which may be issued in future Mr. Ruskin's name will not appear." This was in February, 1899.

The Society wishes its members to know that Mr. Ruskin's subscription was given for the simple repair of an ancient building, but Mr. Ruskin's name has been used in helping to raise funds for works of "restoration" of which he would have entirely disapproved.

Market House, Dursley, Gloucestershire.

Our attention was called to a proposal to destroy the dormer windows in this building.

It appears that the roof of the building is in urgent need of repair, and the trustees of the Market House had obtained an estimate from a firm of builders for carrying out the necessary works, including the dormers. Upon their considering this report it was suggested that a portion of the expense might be saved if the dormers were omitted, and the builders were asked to revise their estimate accordingly.

In the meantime the Society wrote to the trustees pointing out the value of the dormers to the general appearance of the building and urging that they should be retained, and we have much pleasure in reporting that at its next meeting the trustees agreed to comply with our request.

The building is of the Queen Anne period, and is well worthy of preservation.

Eglwys Brewis Church, Glamorganshire.

At the request of the patron of the Living, the Society reported upon this building and the works recommended by the Society are now being carried out (so far as funds permit) under the supervision on the spot of an architect in whom we have confidence and who is acting in consultation with the Society.

The church is a small building and consists of nave, chancel and porch of the fifteenth century. It is essentially dignified and interesting, and when the necessary repairs have been completed, the building will be better fitted for worship, while at the same time its value as an authentic work of the mediæval builders will be preserved in its integrity.

Eglwys Cummin Church, Carmarthenshire.

What has been said about Eglwys Brewis Church to a large extent applies to this building, for the Society supplied a report at the request of the authorities and the works are to be carried out by the same architect.

The building is a typical example of the work of the mediæval builders in Wales.

It is with pleasure that the Committee is able to report its success in this and similar cases, as it shows that those in charge of ancient buildings are more willing to accept the help of the Society than formerly.

The long experience of the Society in the repair and sustentation of ancient buildings enables us to give help which is often of the greatest value, and in some in-

stances in which buildings have been condemned, we have been able, through this experience, to show to those who have charge of them that with skill and constant supervision during the work they may be made sound and fitted for their proper uses; but we believe the best results can only be attained by the architect who has charge of the work practically acting as his own Clerk of Works, and not attempting to direct the works from a distance.

We are glad to say that these buildings will have the benefit of this arrangement.

Grantchester Church Tower, Cambridgeshire.

This building was visited and reported upon at the request of the vicar, and we are glad to be able to state that we learn that the advice given by the Society has been followed and the tower repaired in accordance with it.

The tower is of considerable value and bears the Arms of Bishop Fordham, Bishop of Ely, 1388-1426.

Haddington Abbey, N.B.

It was with much regret that the Society heard of a proposal to restore the tower and transepts of Haddington Abbey—"The Lamp of Lothian"—which are at present in ruins.

The nave of the old Abbey Church is now the only part used for service, and an offer was made by a gentleman to restore the ruined portions of the Abbey so that

they might form part of the parish Church. The Church as it now stands is of extreme beauty as a whole, and any interference with its ruined portions would to a large extent destroy the charm which the building possesses.

Fortunately, however, we understand that certain of the more important heritors are opposed to the scheme for restoration, and we therefore hope that it will be abandoned.

Hexham Abbey Church.

In the last report we stated that it was proposed by the custodians, among other works, to build *a new nave "in the style of the 15th century."*

According to a letter published in the *Times* of 10th January, 1900, one donor has given £15,000 to carry out this work, while another gentleman has "decided to erect the Lady Chapel of the old Abbey at his own expense," and it is to be "a work of art worthy of the Abbey."

Under these circumstances the Committee is powerless, for if the custodians desire such work and others are willing to pay for it, clearly there is nothing to be done until public opinion on this question has become much stronger and better informed.

The Society, however, views the additions to the existing building as a lamentable error, the more so as they are not necessary to meet pressing needs, for the large transepts are not at present used by the congrega-

tion, and any additional accommodation could have been provided by bringing them into use again.

It is indeed distressing to the Committee that so large a sum should be spent on injurious additions to such a building, when it knows of many ancient buildings which are in crying need of *repair*, but which cannot receive the attention they require owing to the necessary funds not being forthcoming.

Huddington Church, Worcestershire.

In our report for 1897, we stated that it was a relief to be able to say that this lovely old Church was safe from either of the fates which for years have been hanging over it, *viz.*, a thorough restoration or lapsing into ruin.

Unfortunately, our hope of the building being simply repaired seems unlikely to be realised, for we have recently seen the architect's report upon the building, and if his recommendations are carried out, the Church will have lost a great part of its interest, and will practically be valueless as an authentic record and work of art.

This is the more to be deplored, as we have watched the building for many years, and have furnished the custodians with a report as to the works necessary to put the building into a structural condition while at the same time fitting it for worship. Our recommendations, if carried out, would not only cost less than the present drastic scheme (and as funds are hard to obtain this is

an important point), but would have interfered with the general aspect of the building but slightly.

Indian Monuments.

The ancient buildings of India possess particular claims upon our attention. Voluminous as is the literature of that country, it contains no work of a date anterior to the Mahomedan Conquest which can strictly be termed historical, and such knowledge as can be obtained of the preceding period has to be gathered from incidental allusions in poetical or philosophical works, from coins and inscriptions (generally grants of land) dated from uncertain eras, and from the architectural monuments of the country; which last, therefore, not only share the artistic and antiquarian importance of similar objects in Europe, but possess an additional and higher value. Fortunately there exists in India a series of buildings, the sequence of which, ranging over a period from the third or fourth century before the Christian Era until a recent time, can be perfectly made out, and the dates of which can, at least approximately, be ascertained. They display what at the time of their erection was the condition of arts in the several states where they are found, as well as their relative wealth and power. Through them may also be traced the rise and fall of the different religions which successively prevailed in India, the ethnological relation of the races which adopted the various styles, and the times at which and the distance to which the southern races penetrated

northwards, or the northern races extended their conquests to the south.

The buildings of the Mahomedan period, though not the only records of the history of that time, are equally important for its elucidation. The tribes who conquered India are distinguished by the style of their architecture, and their relative greatness is shown by the relative splendour of their capital cities. The varying degree in which the conquerors adopted the style and feelings of the conquered not only affords a curious picture of the greater or less amalgamation of the races, but gives rise to a style of art of admitted beauty and interest.

It is, in short, in its buildings, and so far as regards long periods in them alone, that the history of India can be satisfactorily read, whilst from them at all periods are derived most vivid pictures of her arts, her civilisation, and her position in relation to the rest of the world.

It is, therefore, with great satisfaction that the Society has noted the attitude taken by Lord Curzon, the present Viceroy of India, as to the duty of the Government with regard to this matter, as expressed in various speeches made by him, and more recently in an exhaustive paper read before a meeting of the "Asiatic Society of Bengal" held at Calcutta in February last, with a print of which His Excellency has kindly favoured this Society.

In this address the Viceroy emphatically accepts the conservation of ancient monuments as one of the primary obligations of government, and as even of a more binding character in India than in many European

countries, in which many ancient buildings are in private hands and abundant private wealth is usually available for their protection, while as to others, part of that duty is performed by means of corporations, societies, endowments and trusts; and where, moreover, many of such monuments are invested with a publicity that to some extent saves them from the risk of desecration or the encroachments of decay. In India, the Viceroy points out, all is different. The country is covered with the visible records of vanquished dynasties, of forgotten monarchs, of persecuted and sometimes dishonoured creeds. Most are in British territory and on soil belonging to Government. Many are in out-of-the-way places and are liable to the combined ravages of a tropical climate, an exuberant flora, and an ignorant population, who only see in an ancient building the means of inexpensively raising a modern one for their own convenience.

The fact to which we have before alluded, that the majority of Indian antiquities do not represent an indigenous genius or an Indian style, but are exotics imported in the train of conquerors who had learnt their architectural lessons in Persia, in Central Asia, in Arabia, in Afghanistan, renders, says the Viceroy, a foreign race, like our own, better fitted to guard, with a dispassionate and impartial zeal, these relics of different ages and antagonistic beliefs, than the descendants of the warring races, or the votaries of the rival creeds. To us the relics of Hindu and Mahomedan, of Buddhist, Brahmin and Jain, are equally interesting and equally

sacred. Each is a part of the heritage which has been committed to the custody of the ruling power.

It was perhaps natural that, while the Government of India was laying the foundations and extending the borders of a new Empire, it should have thought little of the relics of the old ones, but after making every allowance, the account given by the Viceroy of wilful destruction and neglect, forms a most dreary history which is hardly relieved by the early attempts—sometimes merely inadequate, sometimes misdirected—to produce a better state of things. More recently, however, the archæological work of the Government has been placed upon a more definite basis. The entire country has been divided into a number of circles, each with a surveyor of its own; and, while the establishment is regarded as an Imperial charge, the work is placed under local control. The Viceroy speaks in the highest terms of the work performed and the generous and discriminating sympathy displayed in the north-west provinces by Sir A. MacDonnell, and concludes his address with these words: "I hope to assert more definitely during my time the Imperial responsibility in respect of Indian antiquities, to inaugurate or to persuade a more liberal attitude on the part of those with whom it rests to provide the means, and to be a faithful guardian of the priceless treasure-house of art and learning that has, for a few years at any rate, been committed to my charge."

Inglesham Church, Wilts.

Since our last report the chancel of this Church has been put into thorough repair, but there was not time to undertake the only remaining portion—the aisle.

Mr. Micklethwaite has been down and the builder has the work in hand. It will shortly be completed and then the Society will have done all that was needed to be done to this building, and we are happy to be able to report that the necessary funds have been subscribed.

St. Nicholas' Old Meeting House, Ipswich.

When the Society learnt that it was proposed to carry out some works to this building, arrangements were made for the Secretary to visit on our behalf.

This he did, and he was courteously met at the building by the trustees. We were glad to find, from information given by them, that it was not intended to do more than put the building into sound structural repair, and to form a heating chamber and vestry clear of the building and only connected by a passage. Our only slight exception to this scheme was to the clearing away of one or two pews on the right of the preacher and placing a new rail, in imitation of the existing one, in their place.

We think it right, however, to point out that in their appeal the trustees suggest the carrying out of more work than our representative understood would be undertaken, but we take it that the larger scheme has been abandoned.

The following resolution was passed by the trustees :

" This Committee desire to express their gratitude to the Committee of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings for their kind interest manifested in the building of St. Nicholas' Chapel by the visit of the Secretary, and will take care that the suggestions for the preservation of the character of the building shall receive the most careful consideration, and be, as far as practicable, adopted in the repairs about to be done."

In addition to the Chapel building there are some valuable ancient houses which are the property of the trustees, one of which contains a good panelled room with a bold plastered ceiling. We are anxious that these houses should be repaired and preserved. It is no part of the present scheme to deal with them, but we understand from the trustees that something will be done if possible before very long, and that they will consult the Society before committing themselves to any course of action.

The original scheme of the laying out of the whole property is interesting, but unfortunately new schools have been built right across one of the most important sides of the Chapel, and thus disguise the effective original scheme of the passage under the house directly approaching the Chapel door.

One of our members has placed in our hands £10 to be given if the works to the Chapel meet with the Society's approval.

Langley Chapel, Shropshire.

This building has been receiving the attention of the

Society for many years past, but until recently, nothing practical has resulted.

We are now, however, glad to be able to report that, by the generosity of the owner, satisfactory terms have been arranged. The Society has a letter of authority signed by Sir Walter Smythe (the owner) and his heir, in which they undertake that the building and its fittings shall be allowed to remain intact during their lifetimes, and that anyone wishing to see the building shall be allowed to do so upon asking for leave at the adjoining farmhouse.

Sir Walter Smythe has also himself contributed to the fund for carrying out the repairs.

Langley Chapel is a building which, apart from valuable associations with the district, derives a peculiar interest from being referred to in architectural books as one of the few remaining instances of a Church with the altar in the centre of the chancel, and having seats with sloping desks facing the altar, on the north and east sides. The building has not been used for service for many years past.

The professional member of the Society who will superintend the work of repairs, estimates that it will cost about £50 to carry out the works necessary to save the building from decay, and that an additional £30 would effect a thorough repair.

The former sum has already been raised, and of the latter sum £12 has been collected, so that we still require £18 to complete the work. It seems a pity that for the want of this £18 we should have to refrain from

doing the work in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, but the Society must not run into debt.

St. Mary's Church, Leicester.

Two of our members were anxious to subscribe to the fund for repairing this building provided the works were carried out in accordance with the principles of the Society. Arrangements were therefore made to visit the building. This was done and our representative was courteously received by the vicar.

The building is suffering chiefly from surface decay of the stonework, which is proceeding rapidly outside and inside also. In the case of the turret staircase, the surface of the stone can be brushed away with the hand. It was noticed that this was not so in the ringing chamber, where the walls have been lime-whited, but the massive stone corbels supporting the floor of the bell-cage have not been lime-whited and are decaying.

This supports previous experience. We know that stone protected by lime-wash does not decay, and recent experiments go to show that the decay in stone may be arrested by the application of lime-wash.

We have recently inspected four stone walls in London, which were brushed down and lime-washed more than a year ago. Previous to this being done, large quantities of decayed stone used to fall from these walls, but since the lime-wash has been applied none has fallen. Of course we are aware that in time the gases in the London air will decompose the lime

applied, but this is certainly not taking place as rapidly as might be expected, and the cost of a fresh coat of lime-wash is not serious.

We advised the custodians of this building to rely upon this white-wash for the preservation of a large amount of work in the Church, and in any case that they should try the effect of its application upon some portions of the structure.

We should add that where the lime-wash is objected to on the ground of its whiteness, this may be overcome by the addition of a little ochre, but in no case should any blue colouring be allowed.

There were many other works of repair recommended by the Society, such for instance as the making good of decayed stones where they have not become structurally useless. The process we advocated is briefly noted in the case of Wrexham Church Tower.

We learn from the vicar that the architect promises to adopt the Society's suggestions where he can, "but that is not very largely." This appears to us to be far from satisfactory, and we can only ask our members to withhold their contributions until we are in a position to judge of the result of the work after some portion of it has been carried out.

London. Tudor House, Bromley, E.

This is rather a sad case. It will be remembered that the London County Council decided to form a register of old buildings and other objects of interest in London,

and the work was set on foot. This house was scheduled by them and illustrated. In the meantime, the Parks Committee acquired the house and grounds for an open space, and decided to demolish the house.

The Society pointed out that the Council was preserving with one hand and destroying with the other. We received in reply the statement that as the ground was bought as an open space the building ought to be removed. We replied that it only occupied a fifty-second part of the whole site, and that from a purely utilitarian point of view it was wasteful to destroy the building. It would be useful as a caretaker's house, and in other ways prove a convenience for the users of the ground. Other Societies took the matter up, the subject was brought before the Council on two occasions and both times the Parks Committee's proposal was rejected.

They brought it up a third time before a not very full house and carried their proposal by a majority of four.

London. 17, Fleet Street, E.C.

Our members will have seen from the public press that this house has been acquired by the London County Council with a view to its being preserved.

As, however, we feared there was some danger of the building being restored, we have addressed the following letter to that body:—

To the Clerk of the London County Council.

re 17, FLEET STREET, E.C.

SIR,

While congratulating the London County Council on the acquisition of this house, one of the most ancient in the City we are anxious to be allowed to lay before them our view as to the principle which should be followed in preserving its authentic interest. We believe that careful repair as it stands, the removal of extraneous advertisements, and simple painting and distempering, comprises all, or nearly all, that should be done to it, and that any attempt to "restore" it to some form which the conjectural reading of supposed evidence would suggest, would be fatal to its real interest.

We may be allowed to point out that the property acquired by the London County Council, at considerable cost, is *antiquity*, and to destroy or diminish this in any way would be subversive of the aim the Council must have had in purchasing the house. There is often considerable confusion of mind as between the value of true antiquity in building and a mere *approximation* to its outward form—between a veritable piece of Old London and "Old London" at a bazaar. It is an interesting exercise, of course, from given evidence to lay down a theoretical explanation of the original contents of any document, whether the document be written or built. But the true interest consists in being able to compare, and often to correct, the theoretical "restoration" with the evidence on which it is based. Indeed the continual re-writing of history largely consists in reading evidence in different ways. In written history the *evidence* is left unfalsified; in built history, however, it is the fatal custom to sweep it away in favour of the first conjectural reading.

It would be inexpedient for us to attempt to make more detailed observations at the present moment, but we shall be most pleased if we may be allowed to know the intentions and views of the Council, and to lay before

them particular suggestions for dealing with this interesting old London house.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THACKERAY TURNER,

Secretary.

3rd May, 1900.

London. Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The Committee has been in communication with the London County Council as to the effect which the construction of the proposed street from Holborn to the Strand is likely to produce upon some of our old buildings and historic landmarks, such as the houses on the west side of Lincoln's Inn Fields, either by their demolition or alteration.

One or two of these houses are said to be the work of Inigo Jones, but whether this be so or not they give us interesting glimpses of the manner in which the master minds of the period were imbibing classical and foreign ideas, and by adapting them to our habits and requirements were contributing something towards the making of modern England; some of the internal carvings and fittings are of a high order, nearly every house has its story, and the general effect is quiet and pleasing, and though they may not boast great antiquity or very striking architectural features, yet their destruction would be a distinct loss to London.

The Society was most careful not to appear unmindful of the great difficulties which have to be encountered

in carrying out a scheme of such magnitude, or ungrateful for the efforts which have already been made by the London County Council for the protection of buildings of historic interest; at the same time, it thought it right earnestly to impress upon the Council its belief that the preservation of these links with the past is an object well worth some appreciable sacrifice.

The following Memorial was forwarded to the London County Council.

WE, the undersigned, desire to express our hope that the London County Council will use its influence for the preservation of the ancient houses on the west side of Lincoln's Inn Fields, some of which are reputed to be the work of Inigo Jones.

(Signed) G. Aitchison, R.A.
L. Alma-Tadema, R.A.
Balcarres
John Belcher, A.R.A.
Walter Besant
G. F. Bodley, A.R.A.
John T. Brunner
James Bryce
Carlisle
Martin Conway
Walter Crane
Dillon, P.S.A.
Frederick Duleep-Singh
Ernest Flower
E. Onslow Ford, R.A.
W. Holman Hunt
T. G. Jackson, R.A.
Godfrey Lushington
A. Lyttelton, Q.C.
W. Q. Orchardson, R.A.

Philip Norman, F.S.A.
J. A. Rentoul, Q.C.
H. C. Richards, Q.C.
W. B. Richmond, R.A.
Herbert Robertson
J. C. Robinson
John S. Sargent, R.A.
J. Benjamin Stone
A. Waterhouse, R.A.
Aston Webb, A.R.A.

London. Newgate Prison.

Newgate Prison is to be destroyed.

Those who have not already heard this will sympathise with us in our disappointment, and it really seems that no building of value is safe in London.

We will not recount the Society's ineffectual efforts to save the exterior wall of the Prison, but it could not have done more—neither did it take what might by some be called an unreasonable position, for it shewed to those in authority that the desired new building could be effected by retaining the curtain wall, with better results and at a less cost than by tearing it down.

London. St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Society wrote as follows to the Dean and Chapter

To the Committee for the Decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is very anxious to urge upon the committee for the decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral that the work has now reached nearly the only point which will occur of resting and reconsidering their aims.

At the present time the nave and the transepts in a large degree represent the church as left to us by Christopher Wren; any injuries which these great portions of the building have sustained have been very much of the nature of accidents done in what we may call the days of ignorance, they have not been parts of a deliberate scheme for altering the general character of this great interior. Moreover, it is quite consonant with now ruling ideas of propriety to subject the eastern limb of a church to treatment separate from the nave and transepts, so that, as we have said, the work of decoration could be concluded now without any sense of incongruity arising from a supposed lack of completeness. This course the Society ventures most respectfully and earnestly to urge upon the committee as opposed to any course in the nature of a compromise—such as continuing the work on a tentative or less extensive scale. The thing most worth considering is, in the opinion of this Society, how to preserve a large portion of the building in the state in which we of this generation have known it, with all the effect of spacious restfulness, so greatly due to the soft mellow colour of its magnificently-wrought masonry.

In speaking thus, the Society does not refer only to the mosaics, but to all the works which have for their aim, not the protection and care of Wren's work, but the correcting and improving it, as is supposed, into something better.

There is evidence on the north-east pier of the dome

that it is intended to run an iron verandah railing all along the great cornice, and to do this would be such a fatal worrying of the interior that we can hardly suppose the committee will consent to it now the trial piece has been put in position.

The retention of the plain white glass in the remaining windows, the Society considers, is of the utmost importance—first of all from its authenticity and from the character and feeling agreeing with Wren's work, of which it is part; and, secondly, from the need for white light, not only for its own sake (and that is evident enough), but so as not to alter the lovely colour and tone of the ancient stonework.

Any tampering with or wounding of the surface of this stonework comes as a shock, even if it be thought so small in degree as the insertion of the bracket under Mr. Watts' picture.

It is not a part of the duty of this Society to criticise the mosaics and colour decoration on their merits, but simply to point out that they are revolutionary beyond all anticipation of probability, and entirely destructive of the ancient character of reverential peace possessed so lately by the Cathedral of London.

In conclusion, the Society ventures to hope that its well-known interest in the preservation of ancient buildings will be considered a sufficient justification for troubling you with this communication.

Signed on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,

ESSEX E. READE, } *Honorary*
GEO. RUTTER FLETCHER, } *Secretaries.*

April 21st.

This letter was published in the *Times* of April 24th, 1899. In the issue for May 22nd, 1899, Canon Scott Holland gave the following pledge: "We are doing our best to give all that has been said the consideration

that it deserves. *As soon as conclusions are reached we propose to make them publicly known.*" No public announcement, in accordance with this pledge, has yet been made.

Ancient Monuments Protection Bill, 1900.

It is with great satisfaction we have to report that this excellent measure has passed through the House of Commons, and we feel sure our members will think that the author of the Bill, Lord Balcarres (a member of our Committee and an Honorary Secretary of the Society), is to be congratulated on the result of his efforts.

The powers given by the Bill are of the greatest value, as it enables County Councils to purchase, or at the request of the owner to become the guardians of, any ancient monument situated in their county, or in any adjacent county. Also to undertake or contribute towards the cost of preserving, maintaining, and managing any such monument, whether they have purchased the same or become the guardians thereof or not.

In addition, the Bill empowers the Commissioners of Works or any County Council to receive voluntary contributions towards the cost of maintenance and preservation of any monument of which they may become the guardians under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Acts, 1882 and 1892, as well as under the present Bill.

Provision is also made for the public to have access to any building of which the Commissioners of Works or County Councils may have become guardians. Lord Avebury has charge of the Bill in the House of Lords.

Navestock Church, Essex.

The main repairs to this building are now finished.

One of the professional members of the Committee recently visited the building and he reports to us as follows:—

“I have just returned from Navestock. The work done is excellent and gave me great enjoyment. It seems that more has to be done to finish, but the hard work is completed. Inside, the Church is as near perfection as one could well wish for, and outside the unfinished work is in a measure more interesting than it will be when finished. The workmanlike and common-sense building or repair is so good, I think great thanks are due to the architect.”

The Strangers' Hall, Norwich.

At one time there seemed every possibility that this building, which is a fifteenth century merchant's house, would be demolished, but we are glad to be able to report that, through the action of Mr. Leonard G. Bolingbroke, the Hon. Secretary of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, this fate has been averted.

In July, 1896, with the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, the Hall was included in a sale by auction. An attempt was then made by some of the more enthusiastic archæologists in the city to rescue it, but their efforts failed. Fortunately, Mr. Bolingbroke stepped into the breach, and at his own expense secured the property.

At his request the Society visited the Hall and advised

him as to the repairs necessary to preserve the building, and we have no doubt that the works we recommended have been satisfactorily accomplished, for we visited the building while they were in progress, and were much struck with the conservative manner in which the repairs were being done.

Thus all lovers of ancient buildings are doubly indebted to Mr. Bolingbroke, for not only has he saved the Hall from demolition, but also from the destructive effects of so-called restoration.

This well-known building may, we understand, be always seen on the payment of a small entrance fee.

Fittings, Penn Church, Bucks.

Many members of the Society have called attention to notices in the public press as to the removal of a pulpit and pew stated to have been in Penn Church at the time of William Penn.

These fittings have been examined by a professional member of the Committee well qualified to give an opinion, and he states that they are certainly not earlier in date than the beginning of this century, and may be of later date.

Under these circumstances the Society has not moved in the matter, although we cannot understand how anyone could reasonably make the statement that the pulpit "was the pulpit of Penn Church from some remote period."

St. Margaret's Church, Herefordshire.

The custodians of this building kindly allowed us to see the architect's plans and specification for its restoration, from which we gathered that if the works proposed were carried out the appearance of the building would be entirely altered, and its wonderful beauty obliterated. We accordingly pointed this out to those in authority, and at their request we have visited the Church, and forwarded a report giving the Society's opinion as to how the works necessary for repairing the building and fitting it for its proper use may be accomplished without undue interference with the qualities which make the building of such value.

This report is now being considered, and we hope, at least, that if our scheme is not adopted, the earlier proposals will be modified.

Southampton Town Walls and Mediæval Hall, Simnel Street.

From as far back as 1897 the Society has been anxious as to the action of the Southampton City authorities, but it was not until December, 1899, that it decided to openly move in the matter, as the Society of Antiquaries and others were doing their best to attain the same objects as the Society has in view.

However, when the Society learnt of recent destructions of valuable ancient work, and that the Mediæval Hall in Simnel Street would, in all probability, be swept away, it arranged for two of its professional members to visit the town to ascertain the facts.

As a result of their visit a letter was addressed to the Town Council in which deep regret was expressed that the Tower and portions of the original Town Wall north of Biddlegate should have been destroyed, and as the Society thinks unnecessarily destroyed, for the gradient of Simnel Street is such that it would have been a distinct advantage to follow the course which we understood had been arranged, and to have the exit from Simnel Street on the north of the destroyed Tower.

With regard to the exceptionally valuable undercroft, or more properly speaking Mediæval Hall, in Simnel Street, the Society asked for an assurance that the building was safe from destruction, at any rate as far as the vaulted room was concerned.

This vaulted chamber is more than an undercroft and is almost certainly the hall of a merchant's or noble's house. The arched opening entering it from the street is largely original, but as the street level outside has risen the Hall was formerly reached by fewer steps down than at present.

The two two-light windows in the side wall opened above the street level.

This Hall is about thirty-five feet by twenty-one feet six inches, and is vaulted in two compartments, the vaulting ribs falling on sculptured corbels of great beauty. The head of a woman with a wimple, on the left of the fireplace, shows the costume of the time of Edward I. The bosses of the vaulting are also carved, one with a fine head. The hooded fireplace is a most beautiful example, with two corbelled quadrant extensions

from the angles of the lintel. It is made like a fireplace in the Abbot's Hall at Netley Abbey. The two corbels spring from large ball flowers.

The date of the work is about 1300 or 1310, and there is hardly in England such another example of domestic building of this time so perfect, so complete, and so beautiful.

Adjoining the end of the Hall are two other chambers which, together with it, form an L on plan. The first of these, directly at the end of the Hall, is about eleven feet by twenty-four feet, and it preserves its original square oak beams resting on corbels.

In one angle against the street, the jamb of an ancient door remains, and there is also a cupboard recess or aumbry of stone. Out of this apartment runs a chamber about thirty feet long by nine feet wide, covered by a wagon vault on a chamfered springing course. It is entered by a wide door of fourteenth century work, and the re-entering quoins, of similar work to those in the Hall, show that the whole was built together. It is probable that we have here the complete ground storey of a fine house built about 1300.

It will be seen from this description that the building is of the utmost value, and it is a great pleasure to the Committee to be able to report that the Town Council has agreed to a resolution proposed by Mr. Glasspool, to the effect that:—

“In dealing with the question of the remaining sites in Simmel Street the new roadway be so arranged as to prevent the unnecessary demolition of the undercroft, and that all previous resolutions to the contrary be rescinded.”

The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Glasspool for the energetic help which he has given to the Society in its endeavour to save the building.

Although we can congratulate the Society that this beautiful Hall has been saved (it is astounding that it should ever have been in danger) the Committee is anxiously watching to see what action the Town Council proposes to take with reference to the Bargate.

It is the possession of such large portions of its mediæval town walls, the two magnificent town gates, taken together with such buildings as this, the Norman house, the large vaulted hall attached to the town wall under the Castle hill, and the old timber Guard-house, which gives Southampton an interest unique amongst English towns, and it is the primary duty of those in authority to see that this interest is retained, while at the same time provision is made for the needs of modern requirements.

Almshouses, Stanstead Abbots, Herts.

There is some danger of these picturesque old buildings being destroyed. They were built by Sir Edward Baesh in the reign of Charles I., and their removal would certainly be a distinct loss to the neighbourhood.

In their present condition they are not fit for habitation, for they are damp and the chimneys smoke badly.

These defects, however, could easily be remedied, and other minor repairs carried out, and if necessary new rooms could be formed in the large space in the roof which is at present vacant.

We have written to the Charity Commissioners setting forth our views, and have been informed that the Commissioners will consider our letter in the event of any application for dealing with the buildings being made to them.

Swarkestone Bridge, Derbyshire.

This bridge is a structure of thirteenth century date which forms a highway three-quarters of a mile in length over the river Trent and adjoining meadows.

Unfortunately, we did not hear about the case until the work of inserting new blue brick arches under the existing ones, with a view to strengthening the bridge, was well in hand.

The Society at once wrote to the Derbyshire County Council to the effect that although it was aware that what had been done must remain, and the work in hand completed, it ventured to urge that if the remaining arches of the bridge could be allowed to retain their present external aspect, it would be a great gain from the artistic and historical point of view. We also pointed out that, from experience, it was found that ancient bridges could be strengthened by removing the metalling, etc., down to the backs of the arches and then filling the space up with cement concrete to a level of nine or twelve inches above the crown of the arches, if necessary inserting steel joists over the crown of the arches, and putting over them another foot of concrete or more if the levels will allow of it.

We understand that six of the arches are to be allowed

to remain intact. This is so far satisfactory, but we fear the blue brick arches, which can only be incongruous when used in connection with an ancient building, will greatly detract from the beauty of the bridge, besides covering the ribs on the soffits of the ancient arches.

Tewkesbury Abbey.

In the year 1896, the architect in charge of the work at this building was good enough to allow us to see his report, and we were much struck with the excellent provisions for dealing with the exterior of the Abbey, and also with the fact that he was opposed to the restoration of the cloisters, which have entirely disappeared with the exception of some tracery on the south external wall of the Abbey which is exposed to the weather and crumbling rapidly.

We were, therefore, astonished to learn from one of our members that a beginning had been made with a so-called restoration of the cloisters, a bay of which had been completed, and that it was proposed to continue the work through the liberality of the Gloucestershire Freemasons.

We were glad, however, to learn that the architect at a meeting of the Restoration Committee repudiated all responsibility for what had been done, and recommended that the work should be stopped and what has been done hidden by being covered with ivy as soon as may be.

It has been suggested by the Restoration Committee, that the funds destined for continuing the work by the

Freemasons of Gloucestershire should be used for the protection, by the means of a simple pent house, of the old work now crumbling on the south wall of the Abbey, and of course we have every sympathy with such a proposal.

The thanks of the Society are due to our member for the valuable assistance he gave the Society.

Wrexham Church Tower.

The tower of Wrexham Church is one of the most valuable ancient buildings in Wales, but the surface of the stonework is suffering from the effects of the impure atmosphere of the district, which is a large manufacturing one.

In the opinion of the Society, the vital point in the treatment of buildings suffering in this way is to arrest further decay. We, therefore, urged the architect to cover the surface of the stonework with a coating of lime-wash, as we found from experience that the action on the surface from the acids in the air would be stopped by this means.

This has been successfully tried on stonework in Westminster Abbey.

With regard to the general work of repair to the tower, the Society recommended that no stone should be renewed except for structural reasons, and that any stone which had not decayed more than one-third of its thickness back into the wall would not affect the structural safety of the tower, provided further decay

were stopped. This we suggested could be accomplished by cutting all the decayed surface of the stone off, and filling the cavity with mortar and tile in a manner fully described.

This process avoids the serious jarring of the building which cutting out decayed stones entails. Moreover, a new stone cannot easily be inserted so as to be homogeneous with a wall as the ancient stone was.

The Society had a long correspondence with the architect upon the subject, but we regret to say that he has decided to adopt the old method, and thus we fear a large amount of new stonework will be introduced, which can only detract from the appearance of the building, the result being that of the ordinary "restoration." Apart from this, the stonework must still continue to suffer severely from the effects of the town atmosphere, whereas if our recommendation had been adopted this would have been averted.

The funds for carrying out the works have, we believe, practically been raised, and therefore it is useless for us to attempt to move further in the matter.

*The following is a list of the Buildings which have come
before the Society during the year :—*

Aberdeen, Greyfriars Church	Beverley, Yorks, St. Mary's Church
Acle Church, Norfolk	Bignor, Sussex, Roman Ruins
Addlethorpe Church, Lincs.	Binham Abbey Church, Norfolk
St. Alban's, Old House, Market Place	Bolton, Lancashire, Hall-i'-th'-Wood
Allcannings Church, Wilts	Brailes Church, Warwickshire
Anney (Savoy) Old Buildings	Bramber Church, Sussex
Ansley Church, Warwickshire	Brechin Cathedral, N.B.
Anwick Church, Lincs.	Brede Place, Sussex [shire
Ashmansworth Church, Berks.	Bredon Church, Worcester-
Ashton Bridge, Devonshire	Bristol Cathedral
Ashton Church, Devonshire	Bristol, Court Room, St.
Ashton-under-Hill Church, Gloucestershire	Peter's Hospital
Ashton-under-Hill, Gloucestershire, Pigeon House	Bromeholme Priory, Norfolk
Avening Church, Gloucestershire	Bury St. Edmund's, St. Mary's Church
Axminster, Devonshire, St. Mary's Church	Cambridge, The Round Church
Bath, Abbey Church	Canterbury, St. Augustine's Monastery
Bedford, The Old Priory	Carrow Abbey, Norfolk
Belchalwell Church, Dorset	Castle Bytham Church, Lincs.
Belshford Church, Lincs.	Charwelton Church, Northants

- Cheadle Church Tower, Staffs.
 Chichester Cathedral, Sussex
 Clare Church Tower, Suffolk
 Clayton Hall, Lancashire
 Cley-next-the-Sea Church,
 Norfolk
 Clonfert Cathedral, Co. Galway
 Cofton Church, Worcestershire
 Cow Honeybourne Church,
 Worcestershire
 Cranleigh Church Tower, Sur-
 rey
 Croydon, Whitgift Hospital
 Cyprus, Ancient Buildings in
 Dorchester, Dorset, Roman
 Pavements
 Doveridge Mill, Derbyshire
 Draycott-in-the-Clay Mill,
 Staffs.
 Dursley, Gloucestershire,
 Market House
 Eashing Bridge, Surrey
 East Clandon Church, Surrey
 East Lulworth Church Tower,
 Dorset
 Eglwys Brewis Church, Gla-
 morganshire
 Eglwys-Cummin Church, Car-
 marthenshire
 Eltham Palace, Kent [House
 Ely, Cambs., Cromwell's
 Evesham, Worcestershire,
 Abbot Reginald's Gateway
 Ewelme Church, Oxon, Mon-
 uments
 Exeter, All Hallows' Church,
 Goldsmith Street
 Exeter, Exe Bridge
 Exeter, Guildhall
 Eynsford Castle, Kent
 Eynsham Church, Oxon
 Eyton Hall, Herefordshire
 Fordingbridge Church, Hants
 Fordwich Church, Kent
 Frankfort Cathedral, Germany
 Frenze Church, Norfolk
 Frieburg Cathedral, Germany
 Gaddesby Church, Leicester-
 shire
 Goodmanham Church, Yorks
 Grantchester Church Tower,
 Cambs.
 Great Ellingham Church, Nor-
 folk
 Guildford, Surrey, High Street
 Bridge
 Guildford, Paintings, St.
 Mary's Church
 Haddington Abbey, N.B.
 Haddon Hall, Derbyshire
 Hexham Abbey Church, North-
 umberland
 Hill Croome Church, Worces-
 tershire
 Hinderclay Church Tower,
 Suffolk

- | | |
|---|--|
| Hoddesdon, Herts., Rawdon House | Little Malvern Church, Worcestershire [House |
| Holywell, Flints., St. Winefride's Well | London, Bromley, E., Tudor |
| Honeybourne Church, Worcestershire | London, Cheapside, Church of St. Mary-le-Bow |
| Horndon-on-the-Hill Church, Essex | London, Clerkenwell, Crypt under the Priory Church of St. John |
| Huddington Church, Worcestershire | London, Fleet Street, Church of St. Dunstan-in-the-West |
| Hughley Church, Shropshire | London, 17, Fleet Street, E.C. |
| Huntingfield Church, Suffolk | London, Guildhall, E.C., Porch |
| Ibberton Church, Dorset | London, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Houses west side of |
| Indian Monuments | London, Lincoln's Inn Gateway |
| Inglesham Church, Wilts. | London, Newgate Prison |
| Iona Ruins | London, St. Paul's Cathedral |
| Ipswich, Suffolk, St. Nicholas' Old Meeting House | London, Stratford, Bow Church, E. |
| Kirkstead Chapel, Lincs. | London, The Tower of |
| Kirkwall, Orkney, N.B., St. Magnus Cathedral | London, Westminster Abbey |
| Langley Chapel, Shropshire | London, Westminster, Paintings, Chapter House |
| Launceston Castle, Cornwall | London, Westminster, Blue Coat School, Caxton Street |
| Lavenham Church Screens, Norfolk | London, Westminster, Improvement Scheme |
| Lechlade, Gloucestershire, County Buildings | Long Bennington Church, Lincs. |
| Leicester, St. Mary's Church | Long Crendon Court House, Bucks. |
| Leyton, Essex, The Great House | Loudwater Church, Bucks. |
| Littleborough Church, Notts. | |
| Little Hemston, Devon, Ancient Domestic Buildings | |

- Malmesbury Abbey, Wilts.
 St. Margaret's Church, Herefordshire
 Mundesley Old Church, Norfolk
 Navestock Church, Essex
 Nether Hall, Roydon, Essex
 Nettleton Church, Wilts.
 New Buckenham Church, Norfolk
 Newquay, Cornwall, The Manor House
 Norbury Church, Derbyshire
 Northfield Church, Worcester-shire
 Northleach Church, Gloucestershire
 North Wyke House, Devonshire
 Norwich, Strangers' Hall
 Norwich, Surrey House, Surrey Street
 Orford Church, Suffolk
 Oxford, Old Buildings
 Penn Church, Bucks, Pulpit, etc., removed from
 Pocklington Church, Yorks.
 Podington Church, Beds.
 Raunds Church, Northants.
 Reading Abbey Gateway, Berkshire
 Reigate, Surrey, Old Houses
 Romsey Abbey Church, Hants.
 Sandon Church, Staffs.
 Skenfrith Church, Monmouthshire
 Southampton, Guard House, Westgate
 Southampton, Simnel Street, Mediæval Hall
 Southampton Town Walls
 South Wraxall Manor, Wilts.
 Stanstead Abbots, Herts., Almshouses
 Steeple, Bumpstead Church, Essex
 Stokesay Church, Shropshire
 "Stonehenge," Wilts.
 Sunningwell Church, Berks., Porch
 Swarkestone Bridge, Derbyshire
 Thornham Church, Norfolk
 Throwley Hall, Staffordshire
 Thurning Church, Northants
 Tintagel, Cornwall, Old Post Office
 Turvey Church, Bedford
 Waddesdon Church, Bucks
 Waltham Abbey, Essex, Harold's Bridge
 Warndon Church, Worcestershire
 Wickham, Bishop's Church, Essex
 Wickhamford Church, Worcestershire

Weston-on-Avon Church, Warwickshire	Winster Market House, Derbyshire
Whitacre Hall, Warwickshire, Moat Gateway	South Witham Church, Lincs.
Whitchurch, Canonicorum Church, Dorset	Wrexham Church, Denbighshire
Wilby Church, Norfolk	Yatton Church, Somerset
Winchester, Alfred Memorial (Proposed)	York, Old House, College Street
	York Minster

REPORT OF GENERAL MEETING.

THE General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, June 20th, 1900, in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, W., by kind permission of that Society.

The chair was taken by His Highness Prince Frederick Duleep Singh.

The adoption of the report, which was taken as read, was moved by the Chairman, who specially referred to the case of Wilby Church, Norfolk, a building situated in His Highness' neighbourhood, in which the Society had rendered valuable aid by visiting, and supplying the custodians with a report as to the structural condition of the building and the works necessary to put the edifice into a proper state of repair.

Mr. Philip Norman, F.S.A., in seconding the proposal, spoke of the increased usefulness of the Society, and to the fact that its efforts were now more fully appreciated than used to be the case. The motion was adopted.

Miss May Morris then read the following paper :—

“VILLAGE BUILDING AND THE WAYFARER.”

In accepting the invitation of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to say a few words

to you to-day, I did so feeling that, though entirely ignorant on the subject of Architecture, yet no one who is acutely susceptible to the influence of things outside himself ought to miss an occasion of saying his say on the question of restoration; for the importance of preserving what is left in every branch of historic art is, or ought to be, too vital, too near to our spiritual and intellectual needs, to go unvoiced by those who are neither experts nor professional—that is, by the most of us. Vital to our spiritual needs and well-being . . . that sounds rather portentous, perhaps? In truth, it is not saying too much, and some of my friends in this room to-day who are far better qualified than I to speak, could, from their knowledge and experience, tell you that it is so. They could repeat what they and others, whose words also bear weight, have said here and elsewhere year after year; they could tell you many things that from me would be a *vêchauffée* of other people's wisdom. But on my own ground I may venture to speak out, namely as voicing the feeling—the sometimes scarcely formulated thought—of the average man and woman. I may, indeed, approach the subject of the preservation of interesting building as one who from time to time wanders about the country on solitary rambles of discovery, and who feels therefore, as intimately as anyone can, that our English country might well become a desert, fertile, indeed, but barren of the land-marks we most love, if, before we have developed an architectural style all our own, we should entirely lose the last few traces of charac-

teristic building. Such things have more than an antiquarian interest. For in many parts of England, and in many parts of France too, the even tranquillity of the land, with its almost rhythmic change of cornfield, wood and pasture, would be dull indeed without the charm that lies about each little centre of this fertility, this forethought and orderliness. The alps and forests of central Europe may be all-sufficing without the brick and stone evidence of man's existence: or the Eastern deserts, with their strange volcano-tossed cliffs, and the sudden wonder of flowering valleys—spots of verdure, literally more precious than emerald mines: these, stirring the imagination with delight and fear uneasily mingled, may be self-sufficient in their gravity, their poignant dramatic contrast. But in a country like ours, cut up in wood and meadow land—sheep-pasturing downs the nearest approach to a wilderness—the very central point of the scene, when the eye chooses to dwell upon it as a picture, is the church against the shoulder of the hill, the gabled house among its elms, the castle-keep upon the river cliff. In wanderings such as those that live in my memory, the long, straight road between the fields would have been less pleasant without the hope that led the eye confidently to the unseen end of it, the hope of at last making the acquaintance of some building interesting by report, or of re-visiting some already familiar place. In the first exhilaration of the morning start, when the sun was eager and the world glittered, the high spirits of lark and blackbird were enough to fill the mind with sympathetic joy, but

the goal of the day's journey always had some human interest.

The unalloyed pleasure of coming across a building that has not been mishandled is now not often enjoyed by road-farers. When we do meet with such, it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the outlook of life seems the gayer and hopefuller for the pleasure of it. Allow me to call up for myself—and for you if I can—two pictures, one of a village in Burgundy and the other of a small town in the Thames valley. These two types, the one because I have always lived in the Thames valley and can speak of the surroundings more readily than of other places, and the other because of certain likenesses: the building of Upper Burgundy, in limestone generously used and well finished, resembling our Gloucestershire work with material from Cotswold quarries. Imagine that it is evening and the sun hangs low over the Hill of Gold, while the twilight has already chilled the opposite downs round which our road winds towards the little three-arched bridge in the valley. Here, where the young Seine runs lightly, leaving the pasture-meadows, thick with purple crocus, for the small sunny gardens with their flat-topped stone walls set high above the stream: here, boys and girls are dancing in the sunset after the day's harvesting. The road rising beyond the bridge, one sees the broad street spread out, the buildings in silhouette against the sky, not dramatic indeed, but making a pleasant line, and presenting, as one wanders by, delightful Burgundian details. The church, which lies eastward off the street,

and must get all the wildness of the winter winds unbroken from the down, is rugged and weather-grey, with barn-like roofs heavily stone-slated. Its claim to distinction is the solid simplicity of it (built by poor dalesmen in their thirteenth century) and the directness and plainness of the stone work and mouldings. The town-dwellings are delightful: deep gables and queer conical towers, pillared granaries and wide-arched cellars, circular turret stairways in the smooth face of the wall, where the small elegant windows are gay with pinks; there are carved stone benches too, at the porch, where the elders sit a-nights while the young ones dance. And in my remembrance the youth of that Burgundian dale-village are always dancing in the flaming August sunset, at the bridge-road which leads up and away from their laughter, on to the down.

Here is another type of pleasant town-building that until quite lately has been scarcely smartened or meddled with. Near a high single-arched stone bridge, with a tiny square gate-house at the end of it, is a stile opening on to the church-path to the town. A wide water-meadow is cut in two by this foot-way, which is raised upon a dyke and edged with willow and white thorn; and the long path seems to lead straight to the church spire, across the greenery and above the high-walled gardens and the line of the grey roofs. The river here, small and nearing its source, has not the dimpled jokes and chucklings of the Burgundian water; its youth is thoughtful, with a sedate hurry in narrow channel, and a silent pausing in wider willow-shadowed

reaches. There is nothing about the little town that strikes the eye forcibly at first sight of it, but there is too, nothing sordid or vulgar; with far less antiquity than the Burgundian village, it has the atmosphere of a sane and tranquil life, with its grey walls and the greenery of its secluded gardens. And no building material is so susceptible as this oolite limestone to change of light, so sensitive, one might say, to the varying moods of the heavens; silver-grey under the driving rain-cloud, blonde-gold beneath the mellow afternoon sun. One of the pleasant things about the pleasant church precincts is that one can sit in the porch and look out of north and south windows by turn: one way the mullions frame a sunny picture of meadow and river, and the other, give a glimpse of the wide market place, with here and there a building of some distinction, a Jacobean façade, a Tudor doorway with a carved flower in the spandril of the flat arch. I have said that the church precincts are pleasant: set round with cottages, some ramshackle, some well built. The most noticeable of these, the corner building of the irregular girdle of tiny dwellings, has lately been wantonly and unnecessarily ruined, the excuse being the time-worn one "of the dilapidated state of the building."

I shall never pass this corner in future without a demoralising feeling of anger and mortification at a piece of destruction we have been unsuccessful in trying to prevent. This same town, quiet, remote, not only from the hurry of business, but from its accompanying vulgarities, has been threatened with a red brick

town-hall, an importation from Berkshire over the water, which, at its best, would be foreign to the spirit of our little stone and whitewash towns; some of the go-a-head inhabitants, in fact, will not be easy until they have turned the place into an echo of suburban Swindon. I beg you to indulge me if I speak rather bitterly: we are proud of our Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire villages, set pearl-grey beside the water meadows, or lying with buildings closely grouped in a hollow of the downs; we cannot spare a gable of the roofs, a stone of the barn walls of them. And before leaving this west country, I will ask you to let me quote a short description of a little building which is truly typical of all the rest:—

“And there (by the roadside on one of the western slopes of the Cotswolds) stands the little house that was new once, a labourer’s cottage built of the Cotswold limestone, and grown now, walls and roof, a lovely warm grey, though it was creamy white in its earliest day; no line of it could ever have marred the Cotswold beauty; everything about it is solid and well wrought; it is skilfully planned and well proportioned: there is a little sharp and delicate carving about its arched doorway, and every part of it is well cared for: ’tis in fact beautiful, a work of art and a piece of nature—no less: there is no man who could have done it better considering its use and its place.

“Who built it then? No strange race of men, but just the masons of Broadway village: even such a man as is now running up down yonder three or four cottages of the wretched type we know too well: nor did he get an architect from London, or even from Worcester, to design it: I believe ’tis but two hundred years old, and at that time, though beauty still lingered among the peasants’ houses, your learned architects were building

houses for the high gentry that were ugly enough though solid and well built; nor are its materials far-fetched; from the neighbouring field come its walling stones; and at the top of the hill they are quarrying now as good freestone as ever."

Though many little houses such as this yet remain, they have grown rarer since the writer wrote these words. A friend of mine said one day: "The time will come shortly when we shall have nothing but sky and air to enjoy on a country ride." Ladies and gentlemen, when that day is actually upon us, I, for one, shall turn my bicycle adrift, and never stir out of the dim air of London, where at least we know the worst that can happen, and where we have a certain hope in the possibility of better things. I do not threaten myself with the seclusion thoughtlessly. A year or two ago I spent a very delightful day with some friends, visiting one of the "show places" of the Midland counties. We rode over Cannock Chase, we visited Beaudesert, which had the melancholy of a noble possession little valued by its owners, and, riding back in the evening, my host and I, full of the exhilaration of a sunny journey among the bitter-sweet scents of the moor, we passed through one or two mining villages, on the edge of that beautiful waste place. It was my first introduction to a mining village; it sounds a great deal to say that the pleasure my friends had planned was clouded by the painful impression received in passing through the hopeless squalid places; but unfortunately it was so. The sun set in vain for me behind those horrible slave-dwellings, and vainly I tried to

think of Beaudesert centred in its dreaming woodlands, and how the terraced garden must be lying black and white under the moon. The contrast was too acute, and the holiday is still seen through a veil of black depression.

In my unprofessional way I often wonder what is the future of the arts, what is lying dormant in this long "winter of our discontent"; whether the 20th century may not see the birth of some fine school of architecture inspired by a keener desire for reasonable straightforward work? At present we are living on our capital, as it were, building little of distinction to take the place of these beautiful piteous remains that are the source of so much pleasure and not a little grief. Apparently the legacy of historic art has been a burden to the 19th century, on the surface of things, and in the imitative groping after an original style we have come fearfully to grief, living surrounded by the reproachful ghosts of our own conjuring. Apparently a burden; and it is the custom among the younger people to exclaim, in their reaction, against the study of tradition as being an interference with originality, in short, a burden. A burden? we might call our daily meals a burden with as much reason and as much gratitude to the bounty of the earth and the beauty of man's work upon it. And this legacy is not an external thing, to be cast off and taken up at our caprice; we live with it, it touches us all, even the least learned, though it may be unconsciously; while the men of the present day who have given the world the most original work in any of

the arts have been men of the widest reading and the closest students of past tradition.

I will bring these rambling remarks to a close by an observation that has, perhaps, an element of practicality in it. It has struck me—and others also: I claim no originality in the idea—that a useful work in the interests of architecture could be undertaken by active young people at a loss for an amusing way of spending a summer holiday. They could roam about the country noting exhaustively buildings of interest, photographing and drawing them, and collecting information about them. The more important places have no doubt been so treated, but a great deal of the interesting village-building scattered all over the country is little known and still less illustrated and classified. Such work would have to be organised and directed by a person of some experience, for I do not suppose the young group I imagine to have more than an elementary knowledge of style and detail; more than this will be learned by degrees in the course of the architectural wanderings.

A holiday-maker often has to shape for himself an artificial aim to his day's journey, such as, if he be a cyclist, getting to a certain place by a certain day, or, still more inane, covering the ground in a given time; but, though the charms of doing nothing are very great, there are many who would, I am sure, soon grow eager over the combination of holiday and work. The work would be a labour of love, and I imagine it undertaken by those who are in pursuit of one of the arts, to whom no study would come amiss in holiday time. There is

a great amount of individual effort in this direction which would, I am certain, be far more usefully developed if concerted; moreover, it is usually undertaken by older men who have already got their hands full, and who would feel the utmost satisfaction if they could see their work taken up by younger people with more time before them and more physical strength to carry it through.*

Besides supplementing school work by serviceable practice of open-air drawing and by study of the history of architectural art, the members of any such group, if it might be organised, would feel that they were doing work of considerable importance in hunting up forsaken buildings and recording them for the future.

I will now ask you to look at a series of photographs taken by Mr. J. R. Holliday, of Birmingham, to which my few words were an introduction. It is an admirable series, showing domestic building—architecture is too big a word—mostly of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. But whereas, with architect's building, the date suggests the Renaissance and stately work and thought, secure and self-contained, and a little cold-blooded, the country building of the time is a beautiful mixture of old and new, with all sorts of qualities, the

* It has since been pointed out to me that the "*National Photographic Record Association*" was started in 1897 for the purpose of collecting photographic records of objects and scenes of interest throughout the British Isles. The result so far has been 1,084 prints, which have been deposited in the British Museum. I am sorry I have not had time yet to go and look at them. The Secretary of the Association is Mr. George Scamell, 21, Avenue Road, Highgate.

most amusing of them an unconcerned *naïveté* that doesn't care two pins for public opinion.

Mr. Holliday is one of those elder men to whom I alluded—whose untired energy in recording such places I should like to see supplemented in the manner suggested. Photographs and slides are all by his own hands, and the subjects are chosen as only a man of knowledge and sympathy could choose them.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, Mr. Philip Webb said the Society needed young architects who would work with it, and whose object would be to repair ancient buildings in a common-sense way without endeavouring to leave their mark upon them. By this means the artistic value of the buildings, as well as their authenticity, would be retained, while at the same time they would be made fit for their proper uses. The proposal was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Cobden-Sanderson proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and mentioned a movement to raise a memorial to the late Mr. Ruskin. It had been suggested that the memorial should take the form of a statue, but he hoped another suggestion would be adopted, which was to repair such buildings as those which Miss May Morris had mentioned, to purchase open spaces, and to acquire objects of historic interest. Also to follow the example of Mr. Ruskin, and where possible to get

drawings made as a record of the ancient buildings which charm us.

The motion was carried unanimously and the chairman briefly replied.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Society of Antiquaries for the use of their rooms, which was proposed by the Secretary and acknowledged on behalf of that Society by Mr. Philip Norman, the Treasurer.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1899.

Dr.

Cr.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance at 31st December, 1898:—		By Payments during the year 1899:—	
As per last statement	7 10 9	Printing	34 4 9
„ Receipts during the year 1899:—		Office Expenses, including Secretary's Travelling Expenses	37 17 6
Annual Subscriptions	300 5 6	Members' Travelling Expenses	25 7 6½
Donations	13 18 6	Secretary's Salary	120 0 0
Donations for Clare Church	10 6 0	Clerk's Salary (including £10 additional for 1898)	88 0 0
Donation for the repair of Langley Chapel, Shropshire	10 0 0	Rent of Office	21 0 0
Donations for repair of buildings to be given only in the event of the works receiving the Society's approval	11 1 0	Vicar of Clare for the Church	10 6 0
Donation for Bow Church		Tower Repair Fund	10 6 0
Repair Fund	1 0 0	Treasurer of Bow Church	
Sale of Papers	65 0 0	Repair Fund	1 0 0
Received for Travelling Expenses in visiting Churches, etc.	2 14 0		337 15 9½
	414 5 0	„ Cash at London City and Midland Bank, 31st December, 1899	81 13 9
		„ Cash at Office	2 6 2½
			83 19 11½
			£421 15 9

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct,

24th April, 1900.

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Auditor.

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Bank."

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 Mrs. Gerald Wellesley, 33, *Portman Square, W.*
 J. R. E. West.

Denham Westmacott, 1, *Whitehall Place, S.W.*

His Excellency Baron Whettnall, 18, *Harrington Gardens, South Kensington.*

*F. A. White, 2, *Lime Street Square, E.C.*

W. Hale White, *Lordswell Lane, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells.*

James Whitfield, *Forest Road, Moseley, Birmingham.*

Rev. R. Y. Whytehead, *Campsall Vicarage, Doncaster.*

Arthur Wightman, *Bank Chambers, George Street, Sheffield.*

James Williams, *Beechwood, Sanderstead Road, South Croydon.*

Miss Williams, 4, *Vicarage Gate, Kensington, W.*

G. C. Williamson, Litt.D., *The Mount, Guildford.*

Mrs. Wills, 29, *Lower Seymour Street, Portman Square, W.*

Arthur Wilson, 30, *Ashbourne Road, Derby.*

Thomas T. Wing, *Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey.*

Mrs. Winkworth, *Holly Lodge, Campden Hill, W.*

*Charles C. Winmill, *The Briars, Chelmsford Road, Woodford, Essex.*

*A. Stuart-Wortley.

R. G. K. Wrench, *Kingsgate Street, Winchester.*

Rev. C. H. Wright, *Keston Rectory, Beckenham.*

The Hon. Sir R. S. Wright, *Headley Park, Liphook, Hampshire.*

A. G. Wyand.

Rev. C. F. Wyatt, *Broughton Rectory, Banbury.*

*Hon. Percy Wyndham, 44, *Belgrave Square, S.W.*

Stewart Young, 20, *Montagu Square, W.*

Mrs. Stewart Young, 20, *Montagu Square, W.*

Miss Harriot Yorke, 190, *Marylebone Road, N.W.*

J. R. Yorke, 2, *Chesham Street, W.*

Count Zorzi, *Venice.* (Hon. Mem.)

If any Member finds his or her name incorrectly given, the Secretary will be obliged by the error being pointed out to him.

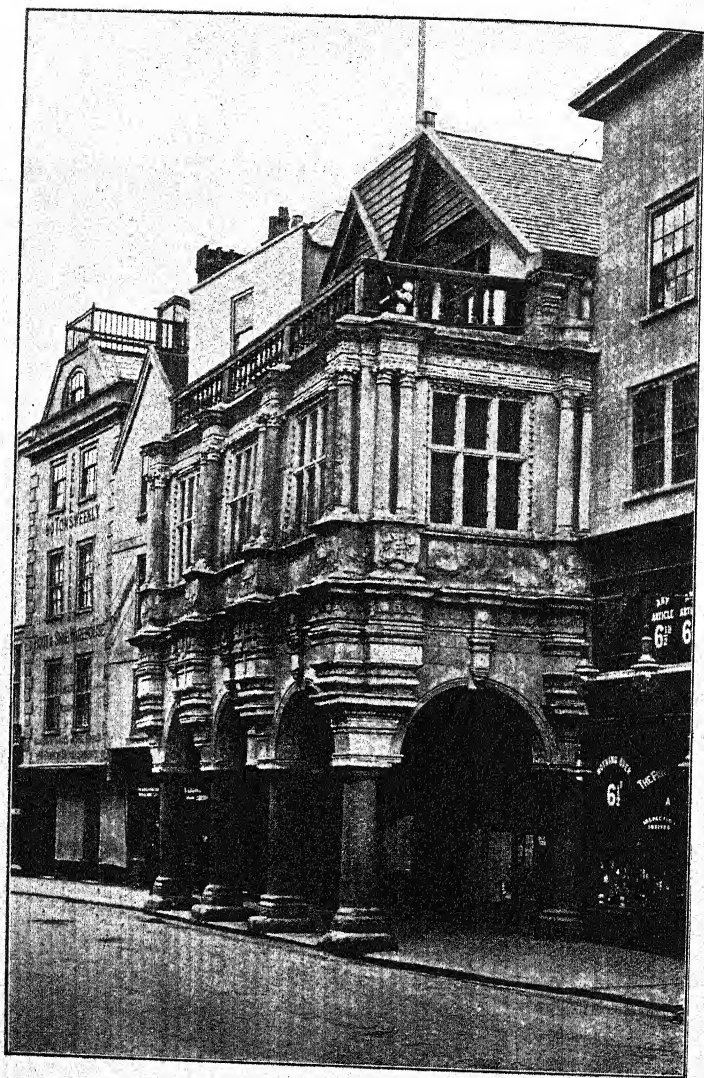
OBITUARY.

The Society regrets the loss by death of the following Members :—

Edward Arnold.
Theodore Beck.
C. G. Clement.
Lady Denison.
Miss A. M. Harrison.
The Earl of Harrowby.
J. Stewart Hodgson.
The Marquis of Lothian.
Rev. Dr. Rogers.
John Ruskin.
H. Vaughan.

LONDON:

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THE GUILDHALL, EXETER

After repair in accordance with the Society's advice, 1900-1

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION
OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.
THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.
JUNE 1901

"DO NOT LET US TALK THEN
OF RESTORATION: THE THING
IS A LIE FROM BEGINNING TO
END."—JOHN RUSKIN.

THACKERAY TURNER, SECRETARY,
10, BUCKINGHAM STREET, ADELPHI.



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"RESTORATION" AND SUFFOLK CHURCHES.

*An Address given at a Conversazione of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, November 7th, 1900, by H.H. PRINCE
FREDERICK DULEEP SINGH.*

In these days, when nearly everyone professes to admire old buildings, and when almost every other person is a collector of antiques in some form (whether they be old books, old silver, or old furniture), it may sound a little startling to be told that never, in the course of all the years, has such terrible destruction been wrought upon our old churches and other ancient buildings as in the last thirty or forty years of the nineteenth century. But such, alas! is too truly the case.

Many old domestic edifices have suffered; but I wish to lay particular stress upon our old parish churches, of which no county once possessed more interesting specimens than did the county of Suffolk. And why I want to speak about the churches is because nearly everyone is asked, at some time or other, to contribute towards the restoration of this or that church; so that it lies in the power of nearly all to help in preventing, if they wish, this wanton destruction (I can indeed call

it nothing else) and to save to posterity what still remains of interest in those few unrestored or only partly restored fanes, which are studded about this county. And, first of all, I would take exception to that word "restore." To restore means to "replace" or "put back." Now, if it were possible to put back the beautiful old fittings and church furniture of the middle ages that were ruthlessly swept away by the puritan sentiment of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (and nowhere was this stronger than in the eastern counties); if, I say, it were possible to put back the actual old work, there would be no keener "restorer" than myself; but when to "restore" means, in practice, to "take away," to take away everything that is not mediæval, and to put in its place feeble and often mechanically made copies of the old work, then, I would say, in the name of all that is beautiful, in the name of all that is interesting, let us not be "restorers."

Now I think I may safely affirm that it is an axiom which every parson—I fear that in many cases it is they who have been the worst offenders—which every parson and other worthy would-be-restorer agrees to, viz., that everything that is mediæval or pre-reformation must be religiously preserved. So far so good. But then they go on to say that things of the next period have very little interest and may be retained if they can be adapted or utilised, otherwise they may by all means be removed. Thus you will often find a beautifully carved Jacobean pulpit which has been cut down a foot or two and its whole proportion therefore spoilt, and generally

its sounding board removed, and this you are told is adapting it to modern requirements. But should a generous patron offer to present a brand new one, say of elaborate Gothic work, "quite in the old style, you know," then the Laudean pulpit is allowed to disappear without one word of protest. So much for Jacobean work.

But, when we come to eighteenth century work, *that*, according to the "restorers," is indeed *Anathema Maranatha*, and must be totally destroyed, and if you mildly protest, you are met with the reply that it is all hideous, that the "horse boxes," which these "restorers" are pleased to call the old high pews in which generations of their forefathers have worshipped, are only the careless and bad work of a possibly godless village carpenter of the last century, and are themselves conducive to irreverence, and should, therefore, be abolished. With reference to this charge, may I remark that they certainly are not helps to slumber: and that Charles I. himself attended service in a high pew, before the battle of Naseby; and he and the Churchmen of his time were not irreverent men, whatever their faults, and it is left for us of the twentieth century to carp at them as irreverent. But, with regard to the charge of ugliness, I would ask this: if the old church with its evidences of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is so hideous, and the "restored" church such a thing of beauty, why does an artist, if he wishes to depict some scene in a church, always select the former and not the latter? Does he ever choose the spick and span "re-

stored" building, with its encaustic tiles of staring scarlet and purple greys, with its cast iron and machine-made altar-rails, an insult to æsthetic feeling, its pitch-pine seats with feebly-copied "poppy-heads," its "cathedral" glass of dismal green, shutting out the fair light of heaven; its ugly oil lamps, dull plastered walls, and all its expanses of scraped and new-looking stonework? No, he passes this by with a shudder, this type, alas! of so many churches. And he goes when he can for his model to yonder beautiful old church of weathered grey stone, with perhaps some red brick built into the parapet of the tower some hundred or more years ago, which gives it colour, and with a picturesque and warm-looking roof of thatch or tile.

Let us open the door and look in. What a picture meets the eye, reminiscent of the days of "Sir Roger de Coverley." The pews are tall and straight backed; some of these are of oak dating from the days of "Good Queen Bess," some later are only of deal, but all are quaint and old-fashioned, and look! how curious are the old iron hinges and latches to their doors. Behind these are some solid oak benches with beautiful carved ends of a much earlier time. The pulpit is a "three decker" not a bit later than 1613, and the inlaid sounding board still hangs above it; the clerk's seat and book rest which form the lowest "deck" of the pulpit are made up of part of the old rood screen, all that remains of it, alas! The floor is of brick, worn by the feet of a century of worshippers, and here and there in it is an old brass or a black marble slab heraldically carved, beneath

which some knight or squire of old lies buried. The altar rails are of oak, carved and twisted, not unlike some banisters in the neighbouring Manor House, whose date is 1575. Some fragments of old stained glass yet remain in the windows; but the rest of the glazing consists of clear quarries, all in their old leading; and if you look at the outside of this glass you will see that much of it has been touched most beautifully by the hand of time, till it has taken all the iridescence of a rainbow. The walls certainly are whitewashed; but surely this is as cheerful as the uniform plastering of modern days, and it is in itself an ancient method. And if the roof is ceiled, is it so much more ugly than the "waggon" roof of pitch-pine now so often seen? This picture of an old church is not altogether imaginary. I have attempted to describe one which is within a few miles of where I live, and which we are trying to *preserve*, not *restore*.

It is fortunate in having nearly all its fittings made of oak; but in any case, an interior such as this, with all the charm of age and tradition, must appeal to the feelings of both antiquary and artist, and indeed, to the heart of anyone who has a reverence for the past. Is it not the poet Goethe who says "time consecrates, and what is grey with age becomes a religion"? The fact that generation after generation has sat in those pews, and walked over that brick floor until it is worn and uneven, that the worthy churchwarden of long ago really thought he was "beautifying" God's House when he made it clean with a new coat of whitewash (being

unconscious of the fact that the original builders usually whitewashed their buildings) gives it all a human interest, and without a human interest, what, may I ask, is the interest in old things? It is very rarely that they interest us by their beauty alone. Yonder flint lying out in the road is just as old as the one which is carefully preserved in the show case; but the one in the show case has been fashioned by the hand of man, and hence its interest; the other has not, and so we use it to mend the roads. And, to go back to our old church, there is a continuity in it all. In the old church I was trying to describe, there is still to be seen some of the solid work of the Normans, and a beautiful pointed window of the Early English period; some others are filled with most graceful tracery in the Decorated style. The porch is of Perpendicular work. Then we come to the quaint woodwork, including a curious old alms-box of the seventeenth century, and then to the eighteenth century, with its square pews, its whitewash, and its old brick floor. So the whole history of that church is at once seen, and there is hardly one century since the church has existed which has not left its mark upon that venerable fabric. Now, thanks to the "restorer," most churches end abruptly with (say) 1520, and begin again with the late nineteenth century. This nineteenth century, with all its garish modernity, bad work, and feeble copying! One's only hope is that it, in its turn, will be swept away by the more cultivated taste of the days to come—taste which will deplore the ignorance and vandalism of those

who, with the best intentions, destroyed where they should have preserved. I hope I have not wearied you. The opinions I have expressed are, I fear, not original, I am only a humble follower of such men as William Morris and John Ruskin, but if any words I have said may make any of you pause before giving money for the destruction of any old work, I shall not have spoken in vain.

NOTES ON THE SOCIETY'S WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Ancient Monuments Protection Act, 1900.

It is with pleasure that we have to report the passing of this Act. Its provisions should be of assistance in helping County Councils to acquire buildings of historic or antiquarian value.

A memorandum pointing out the value of the Act has been issued by the Kent County Council, together with a list of some of the buildings, etc., in the County which can be acquired under the Act.

The Committee considered this memorandum of such value that it obtained copies and sent them with copies of the Act to all County Councils in England and Wales. It has received a great many sympathetic acknowledgments, which leads it to hope that the Act will become more widely known and applied.

Aylesford Bridge, Kent.

All who are acquainted with the river Medway between Rochester and Maidstone will learn with regret that it is proposed to destroy the charming fourteenth century bridge at Aylesford.

We gather that, owing to the great increase of traffic on the river, it is considered that the present bridge is an obstruction to commerce.

The Corporation of Maidstone has therefore put forth a scheme for the removal of the present bridge and the erection of a new one.

Now, in a case of this description the duty of the Society seems plain. It should look into the matter dispassionately and if it is found that the necessities of modern times (unless they be of a temporary nature), cannot be met in any other way than by the sacrifice of ancient and valuable work, that this sacrifice should, with reluctance, be allowed to pass unopposed. On the other hand, if it is possible to meet the requirements in another way, the alternative should be adopted if it is at all feasible.

We are convinced that in the case of Aylesford Bridge it is possible to bring about the desired result without the destruction of the present beautiful structure. It is suggested that the navigation could be improved and the present bridge retained if the following scheme were adopted :—

A "cut" in the river would be made, commencing about 300 yards above the bridge and closely following the railway. Over this cut, at a point nearly opposite the railway crossing, a new bridge would be built, with another bridge in continuation of it over the railway, thus doing away with the dangerous level crossing. The road approaching from the south would commence to rise at the point where it is joined by that from the station, and would be carried on an embankment until it reaches the railway, over which there would be a bridge in one span.

About 40 feet further on the river bridge would begin, which would span the stream in one arch, and from this bridge to the present one the road would again be raised on an embankment; the earth for the embankments would, of course, be supplied from the cutting. The present bridge would be widened sufficiently to allow vehicles to pass and to give a footway 4ft. wide on each side. This could be done with good effect by timber staging such as may be seen in various old bridges on the Continent.

With regard to the river, a really grand improvement in its course would be effected, and the bridge would cross it not just at a sharp bend, but in the middle of an almost straight reach. This will be thoroughly appreciated by all who are in any degree acquainted with the river.

It need hardly be added that flood water would rapidly pass away.

This then is a general outline of a scheme which, if carried out, would result in the preservation of the present bridge, and we sincerely trust that the authorities will give it every consideration before coming to a final conclusion.

There are many fine bridges on the Medway which are threatened with a like fate to that of Aylesford, under similar conditions. Therefore we are the more anxious that this bridge should be preserved.

Binham Abbey Church, Norfolk.

This church was visited by two professional members of the Committee, and a report sent to the Vicar,

which he has promised shall be considered by the Restoration Committee.

Binham Priory was a cell of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Alban's. Of the monastic buildings little more than the foundations remains, and the whole of the east end of the church, including transepts and two bays of the nave, was reduced to ruin at the time of the Dissolution. The south aisle of the nave seems to have been dismantled at about the same date, as the arches of the south arcade have been walled up and some windows of late Tudor character set within them. The north aisle fell within living memory, and its side windows were re-used in walling up the north arcade of the nave.

The present church therefore consists only of the western portion of the nave, without the aisles. It is chiefly of Norman date and character, with arcade, triforium and clerestory (the roof span being twenty-four or twenty-five feet), and though the westernmost bay of the arcade and the three western bays of the clerestory show Early English work, they do not interfere with the general effect of the composition as Norman, and the double round roofing shafts are carried up against the piers as before. The west wall, however, strikes a different note, as it is fully developed Early English work, rich, and particularly beautiful. It remains almost complete, including the flanking wings and their long two-light windows with transoms which lighted the now ruined aisles. The greater part of the great west window of the nave has, however, been bricked up and some of the tracery probably lost.

The structural condition of the building is on the whole good. A little patching may be wanted here and there. The roof, however, needs thorough overhauling, the timbers to be gone over one by one, and dealt with as individual examination of each timber may shew to be necessary. The lead should be stripped, the battens and boarding largely replaced with new oak boarding, over which battens and deal boarding should be laid to take the lead, which should be recast on the site.

A proposal has been made to remove the present roof altogether and to substitute a new roof of steeper pitch, on what are supposed to be Early English lines. Against this the Society has protested, and has given its reasons most fully against such an alteration.

There are other points in the report which cannot be enumerated here, but it will be understood that the building is of priceless value. Surely the first duty of those in authority is to make it weatherproof. The roof urgently needs repair, so as to bring about such a result, and therefore it seems to the Committee that any sum of money which the custodians have in hand should at once be spent in repairing the building in its present condition, without waiting for a large sum to be raised to enable them to make a conjectural restoration of a roof which, at its best, would introduce a regrettable element of newness into the building.

Old House, Brightlingsea, Essex.

In spite of the energetic efforts of the Society we

deeply regret to report that this house has been demolished.

The house was surveyed on behalf of the Society and an approximate estimate of the cost of repair was sent to the owner. He however, decided to offer the house for sale and, in the event of his not finding a purchaser, to pull it down.

The Society did what it could to find a purchaser, but owing to property of this nature being rather difficult to manage from a distance, it was not successful. The price asked for the house and surrounding ground was £300, in addition to which there would have been the cost of putting the building into repair. We are convinced that the property would have paid a fair percentage upon the entire cost if it had been acquired by a local person.

It is a matter of the keenest sorrow to the Society that such an interesting building should have been lost to us and to posterity, for the sake of a few hundred pounds.

The following extract from the *Brightlingsea Magazine* for March, 1901, will be of interest.

"The Old House on the Green.—This alas! can only be spoken of now in the past tense. We had been accustomed to speak of it as Elizabethan, but recent expert opinion assigns an earlier date, *viz.*, Henry VII.'s reign, which would make it, roughly speaking, about 400 years old. Also, instead of being a Farm-house, it seems more likely to have been a Hostelry or Inn. The middle portion, in modern times divided into the two apartments which went with us by the name of the 'Guild Rooms,' would be the large central hall or re-

ception room. The room on the right would probably be the parlour, or best guest-chamber; that on the left the family living room, while several staircases gave separate access to the various sleeping rooms overhead. The massive oak roof timbers in the middle and right-hand lower rooms will be the best remembered feature of the old house. In the course of its demolition several of the original fire-places came to light, measuring fully six feet across, and finished above with low-pointed arches in moulded or chiselled brick, with glazed white tiles at the back. Appearances showed that most of the house front had been originally of the over-hanging type, and that the gables had been finished with 'barge-boards.' Very few nails had been used in the construction of the building, but the timbers were elaborately morticed and pegged together. The external walls were mostly of wattle and clay; straight rods, chiefly of hazel, but some also of oak and chestnut, being tied together with rope-yarn, and then daubed with clay, and whitewashed over. Even now, after the wear of centuries, the rope-yarn is tough, and smells of tar, and some of the rods are still strong enough for conversion into walking sticks.

"The old house had often been photographed, and has doubtless figured in many sketch books."

Bronsil Castle, Herefordshire.

The only portion of this building which remains is a part of the tower on the north side of the old entrance gateway, which has disappeared. It must have been a moderate-sized castle or fortified house once, as it covered the whole of the land within the moat. It appears that the building was destroyed by fire about the year 1500. One curious feature is that the tower was originally circular, and was made octagonal subsequently by the ad-

dition of an outer skin of masonry about two feet thick, and apparently with little bonding in.

The attention of the Society was called to the ruin by a gentleman interested in the neighbourhood, and with the consent of the tenant, whose house is close by, it was arranged that one of our professional members should visit it. As a result, a report was sent to the tenant. The tower is fairly upright, being only some six inches out of the perpendicular; the foundation appears good, and was not affected by the earthquake of a few years ago, which did affect the house already referred to. About twelve years ago, a considerable portion of the tower fell. The Society recommended that a sloping buttress of the old fallen stones (as far as possible) should be built upon a good foundation, well bonded at intervals into the old walling, that all earth and loose stones should be removed from the back of the wall, and liquid grouting poured in between the inner and outer facing and all cracks and fissures, so as to solidify them; that the windows should be filled up to within twelve inches of the face of the wall with stone work in mortar, as well as all holes and cavities in the back of the wall; that the top of the wall and all the internal projections should be covered with fine cement concrete, and finished with a coating of earth covered with turf; and that a piece of stone should be put in the upper window to prevent the head of the window from falling and letting down the masonry above.

The tenant, in thanking the Society, stated that the recommendations given would be of great help, and that

should he succeed in carrying them out, he would write and inform the Society of the result.

We should add that our member very kindly offered to examine the work while it was being done.

Cambridge University Library.

It came to the knowledge of the Society that a scheme was under the consideration of the Syndics of the Cambridge University Library with a view to the extension of the Library at the expense of the old Schools' Quadrangle.

The quadrangle was formed at different times in the fifteenth century, the buildings which enclose it being designed to serve as the public buildings of the University, including the library, which, at first confined to a single room, gradually spread over the rest of the area.

In the middle of the eighteenth century irreparable damage was done by the destruction of one side of the enclosing buildings, the work of Archbishop Rotherham; it was replaced by the present east front, which cut off the quadrangle from the outer world. But the other three sides have hitherto remained to a large extent intact, and are of the highest value, not only as a fine mediæval building, but no less from an historical or even sentimental standpoint, as, for three centuries at least, the centre of the intellectual life of the University.

We understood that it was proposed to cover in the quadrangle with a glass roof at the first floor level, and to fill the space thus obtained with book-stacks of iron.

In a letter which appeared in the *Times* the Society

pointed out that the effect of this alteration would not only be harmful to the actual structure, but that the quadrangle, once turned into a book store, must cease to be a quadrangle, and it would no longer be what its builders intended it to be.

In a reply to our letter the Registrar not only confirmed our fears as to the destructive nature of the proposals, but his description of the proposals clearly proved that we had underestimated the extent of the contemplated damage.

The Society trusts that those in authority will abandon the scheme, the more so as we gather that the additional accommodation provided by it can only meet the increasing needs of the Library for a short space of time, and is, therefore, at the best, but a temporary expedient.

Chichester Cathedral.

The new north-west tower has now been completed. From the first the Society opposed its erection and pointed out the danger which would arise from settlements and other causes if it were built. The following letter, which appeared in the *Sussex Daily News* of 18th February, 1901, shows that the Society's fears were only too well-founded.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL.

SIR,

The Dean and Chapter of Chichester are to be congratulated upon being placed in a position, by the

legacy of £500 which they have received, to remove the sad evidences of serious settlement caused by their injudicious building of a north-west tower. This settlement caused the western wall of the cathedral to crack through from top to bottom, and the damage shows most in the western porch, the restoration of which the legacy provides for. It is to be hoped that they will be able to thoroughly repair the crack above the level of the porch as well, although, from the wording of the legacy, it looks as if the money could not be used for the portion of the wall above the porch.

Yours, etc.,

THACKERAY TURNER.

February 15th, 1901.

Cley-next-the-Sea Church, Norfolk.

This is one of the finest churches in Norfolk. The building was visited at the request of the Rector by two of the professional members of the Society, and a report was sent in.

The parts of the building which require urgent attention are the roofs, and in the report we went very fully into their condition and the works necessary to put them into a proper state of repair.

Generally speaking, the structure of the walls is sound, and they only require reasonable and skilled repair to put them and their windows into a good condition.

There are many small repairs which ought to be done, including works of sustentation to the portion of the church now in ruins, but we are convinced that these could be carried out and the building put into a satis-

factory structural state and fitted for its proper use for the sum of about £2500.

This is a case requiring patience and direct personal supervision if the church is to be properly repaired. The building at present is a storehouse of objects of study to the architect, and of interest to the artist or man of culture, and if it is to retain the impressive associations which make it most fit for its sacred use, the first thing to be aimed at is perfect truthfulness, and to attain this it must be sternly resolved that no imitation of decorative features shall be permitted, and that no work which can possibly be mistaken for ancient work shall be introduced; and above all that no new work shall be introduced in the way of fittings unless it is really and truly unavoidable.

We mention this because the Rector in writing to the Society says :—

“ You may rest assured that nothing will be done to mar the beauty and interest of the grand old pile; it must, however, be borne in mind that the building must be looked upon not so much as a memorial of the past as the house of God . . . the necessity of worship and the comfort of the worshippers must be kept in view.”

Now the Society is always anxious that the ancient churches which remain to us shall be made fit for the primary purpose for which they were built, the more so as we know that this can be accomplished without detracting from the authenticity of a building, and its value as a work of art, provided the works are undertaken with the determination not to introduce anything

which is not essential to the proper performance of divine worship or the stability of the building.

For instance, the introduction of varnished surfaces, cathedral or stained glass, encaustic tiles or like objects into Cley-next-the-Sea Church, would be absolutely disastrous to such a noble building, and it cannot be said that such objects are necessary for the services of the church.

The church, however, needs repair to make it weather-proof. We hope it will be found possible to do these repairs without delay, and that nothing else will be attempted until this essential work is done.

Whitgift Hospital, Croydon.

There is still a danger that these beautiful buildings will be destroyed, but we are glad to be able to report that those interested in the antiquities of the neighbourhood have formed a Committee—the Croydon Antiquities Protection Committee—with a view to taking effective action, at the proper time, to defeat any scheme which has for its object the removal of this fine group of buildings, or the interference with any other antiquities.

Our Society, with other Societies, is acting in unison with the local Committee, and we hope by this means that the ultimate safety of the buildings may be assured.

It is a matter of gratification to find that a considerable public interest has been aroused in the Hospital. This is to a large extent due to some valuable illustrated articles which have appeared in the magazines.

Antiquities of Cyprus.

For a considerable time past, the remarkable antiquities of Cyprus have received the attention of the Society, more particularly with reference to a proposal for improving the harbour at Famagusta—a wonderfully preserved mediæval city, and the original capital of the Island.

The value of Famagusta as a monumental city of the Middle Ages is unquestioned, and therefore the Committee is anxious as to its fate.

Through the instrumentality of our Hon. Secretary, Lord Balcarres, M.P., a deputation from various societies interested in the matter attended at the Colonial Office and saw the engineer's proposals; since then a memorial has been drawn up and sent to the proper authority, urging certain modifications in the scheme.

Of course it was impossible to oppose the scheme as a whole, as its object is to benefit the Island. We fear some ancient work will have to be sacrificed, but the societies are working to reduce this destruction to a minimum.

Eashing Bridge, Surrey.

This bridge, which is really two bridges connected by a causeway, crosses two branches of the river Wey on the Godalming side of Eashing Mill, and is an object of great beauty. It is obviously of considerable age, although of what date it would be difficult to say without documentary evidence.

In 1899, the Lord of the Manor, Mr. More Molyneux, was in correspondence with the Rural District Council with a view to that body taking over the ownership of the bridge and all liabilities connected with it. As it seemed likely that this would have resulted in the destruction of the bridge, the Old Guildford Society addressed Mr. Molyneux upon the subject, and he offered to hand the bridge over to that Society to insure its preservation, and he also undertook to pay a sum of money to relieve him from any further responsibility in the matter.

The Old Guildford Society explained to Mr. Molyneux that as it was not an incorporated Society it was precluded from accepting his offer, and suggested that the offer should be made to the National Trust. This suggestion was acted upon by Mr. Molyneux, and the National Trust expressed its willingness to take over the bridge if it was justified in doing so financially. Mr. Molyneux increased the sum to be paid by him to £318, but the National Trust was of opinion that this sum would not pay for the present necessary repairs and allow of a sum being invested, the interest from which would repair the bridge from time to time. The Trust, therefore, could not see its way to take over the bridge unless it was first put into a satisfactory condition, and there was a danger, under the circumstances, of the bridge being destroyed.

Our Society, in order to avert such a catastrophe, made itself responsible for putting the bridge into repair, on the understanding that the sum handed over

by Mr. Molyneux shall be invested, and the interest allowed to accumulate, so that further repairs may be carried out when necessary.

Eashing Bridge, by becoming the property of the National Trust, is now for ever preserved from destruction by the hand of man, but the Society, in order to bring about this good result, has to raise the sum of £150, the estimated cost of the necessary repairs.

We appeal to our members, and to all lovers of such objects of beauty, to assist the Society in raising this sum.

We have already received £24 12s.

Eglwys Brewis, Glamorganshire.

In the last report we stated that works of repair recommended by the Society were being carried out to this church (as well as to Eglwys Cummin) under the personal direction of the architect on the spot, in consultation with the Society.

We are now glad to be able to report that the works have been completed, and have the approval of the Patron, Sir John Llewellyn, and of the Rector.

The following is a short description of what has been done.

The walls of the building have been repaired, and pointed with good mortar with a flat joint, forming an even surface on face, and giving a strong appearance to the building.

A surface drain has been formed round the outside of walls, in concrete, paved on top with limestone pebbles

split in two, which make a smooth surface for carrying off the water.

The roofs, with the exception of the principals, were formerly of deal. These have been replaced with new roofs of oak, ceiled underneath the rafters with oak boards. The old principals have been repaired, and strengthened with iron straps bolted to the underside of collars and legs, which improve the aspect of the new work. The old slates have been relaid on new rough fir boards. The church is much warmer and greatly improved both with regard to sound and appearance.

The old glass in the windows has been re-leaded and the iron stanchions repaired.

The floors under the seats have been renewed and ventilated, and this should keep the church dry.

The walls have in some places been replastered, but have not suffered in appearance, as care has been taken to retain all the old angles where possible, and to renew on the lines of the old work. They have been twice whitened with Aberthaw lias lime, which produces a warm tint and at the same time has strengthened the old plaster.

The pulpit has been carefully repaired and, together with the seats of the church, has been painted a dark green. The effect of the colour on the woodwork, in place of the former yellow stain and varnish, is very successful, and this treatment is only reverting to that which was carried out some time ago, as the old box pews, which were removed about twenty-five years since, were painted green.

The old Communion rails, which are of very simple design, have been retained.

The various painted texts on the walls of the nave have been repaired with fair success. The damp of former years had covered portions with green fungus, and this has been removed by cleaning with bread. The Royal Coat of Arms on the centre portion of the north wall is painted on a whitewashed surface, over an earlier inscription, but as the latter surface is peeling off, it is gradually disappearing. We are afraid there is no known process which would arrest its decay.

The works took longer to carry out than was anticipated. This was largely due to the building being in a worse condition than could be known before the commencement of the work. Owing, however, to the great care exercised by the Architect, the cost has been about £50 less than the estimate. This goes far to prove the Society's contention that ancient buildings cannot be satisfactorily repaired under a contract, as of necessity the contractor must allow a large margin to cover himself against loss whereas under the system recommended by the Society, only the work which is necessary and which is actually carried out is paid for.

The Committee would like to point out how fully this and similar cases mentioned in the report refute the charge which used to be so freely brought against the Society, but which is seldom used now, that the Society would allow ancient buildings to become ruins rather than see them repaired.

Eglwys Brewis is a standing example of how th

Society's principles can be followed in the treatment of ancient buildings, while at the same time meeting the requirements of the present day.

Eglwys Cummin, Carmarthenshire.

The work of repair to this church, commenced in June, 1900, is now practically completed. The repair to the west gable consisted in rebuilding the top portion of the south-west angle, long bonding stones being inserted to bond the angle well together with the gable. A small portion of the north-west angle of the gable beneath the slopes of the roof was similarly treated. The new coping stones of this gable are in local limestone.

Two discoveries were made during the repairs, the one being the old and steeper line of the original gable, and the other the more central position of an earlier west window.

The east gable had cracked at the north-east angle and at its apex had parted from the stone vault, leaving a space of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This space was cleaned out and pointed on the under side and filled with a fine concrete composed of gravel, sand and lime.

The slates of the roof were sorted over, relaid in lime and sand, and further nailed with long zinc nails on to the old mortar bed covering the stone vault; a new eaves course in limestone, projecting 7 inches from the face of the wall, was inserted, to throw the water clear of the building. A limestone ridge to the apex of the roof and lead soakers against the gables were also added.

The porch-roof was treated in a similar manner.

On making good the tops of the walls to carry the limestone eaves course an old rood loft opening, 20 inches wide, was discovered on the north side of the chancel. The walls have been thoroughly repaired inside and out, and the ground outside has been lowered and a limestone channel with proper falls has been laid.

A large waterworn stone built into the south chancel wall 2 feet 3 inches from the floor, as well as some smaller ones found at a lower level, although similar to the valuable Ogam stone possessed by the church, revealed no trace of inscription. These have all been carefully replaced.

In the interior of the church a new flooring of 6-inch concrete and properly ventilated woodwork has been added.

A vestry accommodation for a sexton has been arranged at the west end, where also a stout box of oak and chestnut has been fixed for the keeping of the Ogam stone and the records of the parish.

New oak seats take the place of the inconvenient modern deal ones.

The glazing has been carefully re-leaded, and a casement fixed in the west window.

The cracked flue pipe in cast iron has been replaced by one in copper.

Finally, the walls and stonework have received a colour wash, the old plaster being carefully mended wherever damaged.

Evesham Abbey Gate.

A visit to this building shows that less harm has re-

sulted from the recent restoration than might easily have been anticipated from the official statements. The lowering of the pavement and the construction of open "areas" to show the Norman arcading are not very objectionable, but more substituting of new stones for injured ones has been done than was necessary, and a piece of old brickwork at the north-east angle has been replaced by an ugly new buttress of stone.

The destruction of some old houses in the approach to the Abbey Gate from Bridge Street, which used to face the old Booth Hall, is of infinitely greater importance, and their absence is a great loss; while the new shops that have been built in place of them are a blot on the finest part of the old town.

Exe Bridge, Exeter.

After the courteous manner in which the advice given to the City Council of Exeter with reference to the Old Guildhall has been accepted by that body, it is with the greatest reluctance that we have to express our dissent from the action taken by the Council with reference to Exe Bridge.

The bridge is well known to travellers in the West of England, and if they have not enjoyed its beautiful proportions and cunning design on the spot, they must at least be familiar with it from the photographs displayed in the railway carriages, where it is shown among the many attractive objects on the Great Western Company's line.

The City Council has assured the Society that the

bridge is doomed to destruction because this is authorised by an Act of Parliament.

We, on the other hand, considering that the destruction of the bridge, even from a practical point of view, is a gross waste, cannot believe the Act to be so irrevocable that so valuable a possession must be destroyed rather than that the decision should be altered.

We have gone very carefully into the question, both on the spot and by the aid of drawings, and we believe that the different objections raised against the existing bridge can be met in a reasonable way. But we fear the bridge is doomed, as the *wish* to preserve it appears to be wanting.

From the purely utilitarian standpoint we should have thought it would have been wiser to retain the present bridge, but the desire for something new, something to meet a passing fashion, is so strong, that any attempt to press even this upon those desiring the change is futile.

Exeter Guildhall.

As stated in the Report for 1899, this building has been repaired in accordance with the recommendations of the Society. We give below the principal features of these repairs.

The portion of the building which exhibited the greatest signs of movement is that part of the Council chamber on the first floor which projects over the pavement, and is carried on four monolith granite columns. The walls of this portion, which are roughly built of

local stone and faced with Beer stone, were first shored up, and an examination was made of the flooring of the Council chamber. This was found to consist of oak beams and joists at right angles to one another and in good condition; the superimposed deal boarding was, however, badly decayed. The floor was not rigid owing to the strain put upon it by the movement of the front wall. By a system of tie rods the floor was made capable of retaining the front wall in its present position.

The walls of the Council chamber next demanded attention. The front and side walls were found to be built on oak beams 12 inches by 9 inches; these beams were badly perished on their upper surfaces, and the settlement of the walling had thrown the weight on to the thin masonry, 6 inches in thickness, in front of the beam. The elastic nature, however, of the Beerstone caused this masonry to bend and not to break. These three beams were, therefore, replaced by a lintel of long tiles bonded together, and the cracks in the wall above this lintel were made good with long bonding stones.

The two vertical beams dividing the windows having bulged, they were backed with teak posts strapped to them with gun metal straps and bolted and mortised into floor and ceiling beams.

That portion of the Council chamber which projects beyond the street is covered at second floor level with a lead flat. This floor is carried on three oak beams running to the back of the Council chamber. Their ends bearing on the front wall were so much decayed that they had ceased to be supported by it, and were only

held up by pieces of iron 4 inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches built into the wall.

A new longitudinal oak beam was inserted to carry these three beams, and they were secured on it.

Upon new oak joists, in place of the decayed ones in deal, deal boarding and the old lead (recast) were laid.

The double roof was in a bad condition, and the rafters and a portion of the main timbers were replaced by oak and covered with extra thick Delabole slates, the old slates having perished.

The roof over the staircase was similarly treated, and the walls of decayed lath and plaster renewed with brick nogged walls rough-cast on the outside.

The stonework, when brushed and washed with soap and water, disclosed many hitherto invisible enrichments and traces of colour and gilding on the capitals of the columns and on the cornice.

The shafts of five of these columns, two on the west and three on the south side, were necessarily renewed in Portland stone. All the window sills as well as some mullions and transoms were renewed in the same material.

The space between the Beerstone facing and the walling has been filled in and made solid with thin mortar.

Two coats of blue lias lime slacked in boiling water were applied to the stonework. The decayed deal panelling of the Council chamber was replaced by oak. The jambs of the fireplace discovered behind the deal panels were supplied with a new lintel and inner

jambs and lintel in Thorrenton stone. A new flooring of deal boards covered with oak boards has been placed in the chamber. The serjeant's room and the hall on the ground floor have been re-floored, re-partitioned and painted.

From this description it will be seen that the building required the most careful treatment, and we are deeply grateful to Mr. William Weir, the architect acting on behalf of the Society, for the painstaking care which he gave to the building while directing the works on the spot. Mr. Herbert Reid is also to be congratulated on the satisfactory manner in which he carried out the work.

Queen Eleanor Crosses, Geddington and Northampton.

The Northampton County Council a short time ago appointed a Committee to consider what steps (if any) should be taken for the preservation and protection of the Eleanor Crosses in the county. The report of the Committee is of such interest that we think it desirable to make some reference to it. With regard to the Cross at Geddington the Committee reported that no steps are at present necessary.

Referring to the Cross at Northampton, which stands by the highway some distance from any house, the Committee is of opinion that it has suffered, and still suffers, more from wanton injury than from the action of the weather, and if it could be protected from wilful damage very little more would be required for its preservation.

The greatest difficulty in the past has been the question of ownership, but this has been overcome, and the Cross is now vested in the County Council.

Under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act of 1900, the County Council has full powers to preserve, maintain and manage the Cross at Northampton, as well as other ancient monuments, and also to protect such monuments from decay and wanton damage.

We think we cannot do better than give the following quotation from the Committee's report to the County Council :—

“ In the opinion of this Committee, notices should at once be put up in the vicinity of the Cross (but not so as to be an eyesore), appealing to the general public to protect this property, and stating that it is now under the protection of the County Council, and that all persons found injuring or defacing the Monument will be prosecuted under the Act. The police should also be instructed to the same effect. If these steps are taken it is hoped that it may not be necessary to erect even a low fence round the Cross, to which, moreover, the Act above referred to, provides that the public shall have access.

“ With regard to the structure itself, very little appears to be required. The Committee would earnestly deprecate anything like an attempt to restore the Cross. The leaves and rubbish which accumulate in the upper part of the structure, and which form a soil for vegetation, should be removed annually, and any cracks or fissures through which water might penetrate into the interior should be stopped with cement, in order to prevent further decay. What should be aimed at is to preserve the Cross as it now stands, with as little interference as possible.

"It is suggested that the powers of the Council with regard to the Cross (and any other ancient monument) should for the present be exercised by a Committee to be chosen by the Committee of Selection, acting under the advice of some competent architect or surveyor."

These recommendations are so excellent that the Society decided to send a letter to the County Council saying that it had received great satisfaction from the Committee's report, and at the same time we stated that if the Society could help the Council with professional advice or in any other way, it would be most happy to do so.

Market Hall, Godalming.

The Committee learnt that it had been proposed to demolish this building, and it therefore addressed a communication to the Mayor and Corporation upon the subject. In its letter the Society pointed out the value which the Market Hall lends to an exceptionally interesting town, and expressed its urgent desire that if there was any truth in the report which had reached the Society, the Town Council would stay its hand.

Energetic action was also taken locally by those interested in the preservation of the building, and an influentially signed petition was presented to the Town Council.

We are glad to be able to report, as a result of the efforts made, that the Authorities have decided to retain the building, and to put it into repair.

Although the building was erected at so late a date as

1814, it is nevertheless well designed for its situation, and its destruction would not only have been a loss in itself, but the effect of its removal would have detracted considerably from the quiet and dignified character of the High Street.

It is, indeed, one of those buildings to which the Society's manifesto is intended to refer, when it is stated that if we are asked "to specify what kind of amount of art, style or other interest in a building makes it worth protecting," we reply: "Anything which can be looked upon as artistic, picturesque, historical, antique or substantial; any work, in short, over which educated people would think it worth while to argue at all."

Guildford Bridge.

In February, 1900, about one-third of the ancient bridge at Guildford was destroyed by floods.

The Society at once went fully into the matter with a view to offering its assistance to the Town Council, and as a result a report was drawn up and forwarded to the Council, together with drawings illustrating what the Society considered to be the most satisfactory method of repairing the bridge.

Previous to the flood the bridge consisted of five visible arches, together with a sixth at the east end buried beneath the roadway.

Of these five arches, counting from the east, or High Street end, the second had been partially, and the third or central one entirely, broken down. The three re-

maining visible arches were entire, and, except for a serious, but not irremediable crack in the fourth arch, seemed to have sustained no damage.

The Society's scheme provided for the retention of these three arches, and the erection of two new arches in place of those which had fallen, but considerably wider and higher. This was to be effected by building a narrow pier of hard material in place of the very broad one that had fallen away, with an arch of twenty-one feet on either side.

It soon became evident that the Town Council intended to have an entirely new bridge, and the Society, therefore, did its best to support a scheme for using stone or brick as the material as opposed to iron or steel.

Several residents in the locality offered to provide plans for a stone bridge, and in the event of the Council deciding upon such a bridge, and the cost being more than that of a steel bridge, to subscribe the deficiency.

The Council agreed to consider such a plan, but at the same time gave directions to an engineer to prepare plans for a steel bridge, the two schemes to be considered simultaneously.

A brick and stone bridge was designed by Mr. Halsey Ricardo, and submitted to the Town Council, but we regret to report that it decided to erect a steel bridge.

The estimate for reinstating the bridge, in accordance with the Society's proposals, in Bargate stone, with Portland stone parapets, was £4026; for a new stone

bridge £5500, and for the steel bridge £5870. The price for the Society's design and Mr. Ricardo's design did not include paving, which would add about £500 on to each. As will be seen, the cost of the steel bridge is not much less than one of stone, apart from the £1000 offered as a subscription.

Therefore, on the ground of economy alone, a stone bridge would have been preferable, as of course the steel bridge will need painting every three or four years, whereas a stone bridge entails no such outlay.

But on the score of appearance we think there can be no two opinions amongst those who value the quiet dignity and beauty of Guildford as to the incongruity of a steel bridge, however well it may be designed. Therefore, apart from the destruction of the remains of the ancient bridge, parts of which were certainly of mediæval workmanship, the Town Council's decision is a great disappointment to the Society.

Inglesham Church, Wilts.

The remaining portion of the work at Inglesham Church—the aisle—has now been completed. We publish with this report a balance-sheet, which shows that the amount expended is £534 12s.

The thanks of the Society are due to all those who have assisted it in carrying through the work. The following letter may interest our members:

INGLESHAM VICARAGE,
LECHLADE.

Oct. 25th, 1900.

DEAR SIR,

Having been informed by the builder employed to renew the dilapidated part of the roof of this parish church, that the work is now finished, I beg on behalf of myself and of the parishioners generally, to offer to the Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings our most sincere and hearty thanks for the help which they have afforded, and the interest they have shown in their endeavours to preserve this church during many future years for religious services.

I am, yours truly,
GEO. W. SPOONER,
Vicar.

THACKERAY TURNER, ESQ.

St. Nicholas Old Meeting House, Ipswich.

A description of this building appeared in the last report and the facts of the case were then enumerated. At the request of the Repair Committee, the building has again been visited on behalf of the Society. The work was found to be practically completed, and we have pleasure in reporting favourably upon what has been done. The architect has acted loyally in his efforts to repair the building without modernising it, and we have handed over to the Treasurer of the Repair Fund the £10 which a member placed in our hands, and which was to be given only if the works on the chapel met with the Society's approval.

Langley Chapel, Shropshire.

We think we may say that this almost unique build-

ing is now in a condition which will preclude any anxiety as to its welfare for many years to come.

In our last report it was stated that a satisfactory arrangement had been come to with the owner, Sir Walter Smythe, and we are now happy to be able to report that the building has been placed in a good structural condition. The roofs have been stripped and recovered, the windows glazed and wire lattice fixed to protect them from stones, the plastering repaired and limewhited, the reading pew propped up and the other pews to some extent re-adjusted.

We should add that there were considerable difficulties in carrying out the works, which need not be referred to here. The cost of the repairs was £71 16s. 5d. Of this sum £62 was subscribed, the balance being given by the Society from its building fund.

The Society is deeply indebted to its member, Mr. J. A. Cossins, for the trouble which he took in the matter, and for superintending the work free of charge.

We are also anxious to thank the Shropshire Archaeological Society for its valuable co-operation, for it not only subscribed £5 towards the cost of the works, but gave the Society the benefit of its local knowledge.

It should be added that the key of the chapel is in charge of Mr. Heath, who has a cottage at Ruckley.

Launceston Castle, Cornwall.

This building was surveyed at the request of the National Trust and a report sent to that Society, who forwarded it to the Town Council.

The remains consist of the Keep, and the Gateways to the Castle Green.

The Keep is circular in plan and consists of an inner and outer wall, 43ft. and 23ft. high respectively, with a passage between. It is built on a high mound of apparently natural formation, the diameter inside being 19ft. 6in. The inner wall is 10ft. thick, well built of stone, the outer wall being 11ft. thick, of a similar nature, somewhat oval shaped in plan.

In our report we went carefully into the question of the works necessary to support and maintain the remains, which will require most careful treatment.

We understand that the Corporation is anxious to obtain a lease of the property, which belongs to the Duchy of Cornwall, but has decided to wait until the lease of the present lessee expires before moving further in the matter.

Llangibby Church, Monmouthshire.

The Society received from one of its members a printed appeal for funds to restore this church. In this report it was stated that the sum of £2000 at least, would be required to carry out the scheme of restoration.

Arrangements were made for a professional correspondent to visit and report upon the building.

The church was found to be of considerable interest, consisting of a nave 53ft. 3in. long, with a chancel 34ft. 4in. long, and a tower at the west end 9ft. 3in. square, all the dimensions being taken internally. The effect as seen from the inside is very good and simple.

The building generally is in a fairly sound state, although some works of repair are necessary, but these could be carried out for a sum probably not exceeding £350.

A copy of our representative's report was sent to the Rector, and we pointed out that if his architect's scheme as proposed were carried out, a very serious loss of interest to the building would result. Another copy of the report was sent to the Squire (whom we understood to be in sympathy with the Society) and he has informed us that now that the roof has been put right, and that the building is watertight, he does not think the church will be harmed by being left in *statu quo*, but in case any further changes should be agitated for, he would generally support the proposals made by the Society, and not the more drastic scheme, which in his opinion would only make the church commonplace.

It is a matter of encouragement to find that the advice which the Society has been able to offer should have been appreciated, and we hope that if anything is done, further help may be given by advising those in authority as to the best methods to adopt in carrying out the Society's recommendations.

London. Ironwork, Catherine Court, Seething Lane, E.C.

A rumour reached the Society to the effect that the ancient ironwork, then bridging Catherine Court, was to be removed. The ironwork was examined and a letter sent to the agent of the property, pointing out that

although it was in a somewhat bad condition, it could with care be repaired so that it might be retained in position.

Subsequently the Secretary had an interview with the agent and discussed the matter.

We recently learnt that the ironwork had been removed, and upon making inquiries of the agent, he has informed us that the ironwork has been carefully taken down and securely supported on the top of a dwarf wall in Catherine Court, where it is to remain and can be seen by the public.

We regret that the ironwork has been removed from its original position, but it is satisfactory to learn that it is to be preserved in the Court, thus escaping destruction.

London. Crypt of St. John's Priory Church, Clerkenwell.

We have examined the work already done to the Crypt and consider it fairly satisfactory, but we think it best to defer our report until the whole is completed.

The Crypt is without doubt one of the most precious objects of Norman date in London, and the letters received by the Society from time to time show that there are many who are alive to its value.

London. Weatherall House, Hampstead.

The Society is sometimes at a loss to understand why public bodies suggest the destruction of buildings of architectural interest to make way for new buildings

which could very well be erected on other sites without loss to anyone concerned.

Weatherall House is a case in point. The School Board for London scheduled the site of the house with the intention of erecting a new school. Surely every effort should be made to retain such buildings, and we are gratified to learn that through the efforts of the occupier and others interested in such objects the scheme has been abandoned.

The London School Board was responsible for the destruction of the Old Palace, Bromley-by-Bow, which were referred to in the Annual Report for 1894, and although in that case the Board was probably unaware of its architectural and historical interest, yet those who advise it in such matters ought we think to take every possible precaution against recommending the Board to schedule the sites of buildings which are of artistic value, wherever it is possible to meet the requirements on other sites.

London. St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church.

One of the last acts of the St. Martin's Vestry was to enter into a contract for making a continuous flight of steps up to the portico of St. Martin's Church in place of the then existing arrangement.

The Society heard of the matter through the Vestry applying to the London County Council for a grant towards the cost of carrying out the alteration, and at once addressed the County Council in opposition to the scheme. In addition we called attention to the

matter in the public press, pointing out that a staircase in one flight of say twenty steps, is not so dignified as a staircase of two flights of ten steps each, separated by a landing, nor as safe. In the case of St. Martin's Church the landing omitted had an additional value as it showed the original level of the ground in front of the church.

We further urged that the old arrangement of the steps was actually better, inasmuch as there is a lay-by on the north side of the Portico, where omnibuses can draw up without interfering with the main traffic.

The Improvements Committee of the County Council recommended that body to contribute £270, one-third of the net cost of the scheme, but upon this recommendation being brought before the Council it was referred back to the Committee, with an instruction to take expert opinion as to the architectural effect of the alteration.

As a result the Council decided by a large majority not to contribute towards the cost of the work.

The Society thereupon approached the Westminster City Council (who had taken over the powers of the Vestry) but we regret to report that the City Council by a small majority decided to proceed with the scheme, but to retain the landing on the southern side of the church.

The work is now completed and the effect can be judged.

The result shews how right the opponents of the scheme were, for the new steps, which are made much

higher than the old ones, look coarse, and the level of the landing on the south side has been altered and no longer takes up the level of the churchyard.

London. Holy Trinity Church, Minorities.

At a time when so many of the City churches are threatened with destruction, it is inspiring to learn of a building being retained after the use for which it was originally built no longer exists. Such is the state of things in this case.

The parish of Holy Trinity, Minorities, was in 1899 united with that of St. Botolph, Aldgate. Instead, however, of destroying the church it has been decided to preserve it as a Sunday school and for other purposes.

The building is particularly interesting, as incorporated in its north wall are the remains of mediæval work, *i.e.*, of the former church. In addition there are some valuable monuments and carved woodwork. The old marble font, with wooden cover and pulley for raising it, is also interesting.

We trust the Vicar will be successful in his endeavour to raise the sum required to repair the building and fit it for its new purpose, for we are convinced that unless some such use had been found for it, the church would have been demolished and the ground built on.

London. Staple Inn, Holborn.

From time to time statements have appeared in the public press to the effect that there was a danger of Staple Inn being destroyed, and as the Society received

many anxious inquiries upon the subject, it addressed a letter to the Prudential Assurance Company asking if there was any truth in the rumour.

We are glad to be able to report that the Society received a courteous reply informing it that "the Company does not contemplate any alterations, much less any demolition of the Inn."

We feel sure the public, and more especially the people of London, will appreciate the action of the Company in retaining the Inn in its present condition. It is a matter of satisfaction to the Society that such a valuable bit of old London is in the hands of those who appreciate its worth so highly.

The Court House, Long-Crendon, Bucks.

This building, together with the garden attached, has now become the property of the National Trust. It is a good example of fourteenth century brick and timber work, originally wattled and dabbed, and thatched.

It stands at the eastern end of the village, adjoining the church, and commands a beautiful view of the Thames Valley.

It is said to have been erected for a wool store, and has since passed through many phases. From hearsay, and judging from what remains, the lower portion of the building has been divided into three or more separate tenements, one at the western end being a shop. There are also signs of there having been a fire on the northern side, which probably de-

stroyed a small projecting annexe. There was a separate cottage on the eastern side until comparatively recently, but it was pulled down, having, it is understood, been allowed to get into a very dilapidated condition. The local courts have been held in the long upper room, and until the building was declared to be unsafe, this room had been used for the Church school and parish room; whilst the lower portion had been used by the late Vicar and his predecessors as a store-room for church necessities, lumber and rubbish. The building was in the following condition in the latter end of the year 1899:

The stone work of the ground pinning was in a dislocated state, owing to the poorness of the mortar. The stone flagging to the ground floor had been almost entirely removed. The oak and elm timber of the framework was generally sound in the bulk, excepting at the joints, which were in many cases completely decayed, especially where exposed to the weather. The wattle and dab panels in the exterior and interior had been in most cases replaced with modern brick work. Small-pane sliding deal casements had taken the place in all cases of the earlier casements. The thatch had been replaced with local tiles, and a chimney stack on the northern side had partially fallen down. The whole building had a considerable list to the south. The intermediate roof trusses were forcing out the southern overhang, as well in a minor degree the northern wall. In many cases the outer framework was being thrust outwards by pressure from above, especially

adjoining the large eastern chimney stack. This chimney stack was also itself in a dangerous condition, and the tile roof was in a leaky state. Before the winter of 1899-1900, the roof was made temporarily water-tight with zinc sheeting and tiles.

The substantial work of repair began in September, 1900, and has since been carried on with one intermission only, of a few weeks in February last. At the same time, dating from November last, certain works have also been in progress in the interior and exterior to fit the lower portion of the building and the eastern upper portion for occupation as a habitable dwelling, without in any way interfering with the ancient work. Of all the items generally mentioned, there now remains to be repaired (or will after Whitsuntide) the upper overhang, the upper portion of the western and northern walls, including the repair of the sliding casements, the floor of the long room, the roof framework, and roof tiling.

The National Trust has all along been acting on the advice of this Society, but unfortunately they are still in need of funds to complete the work. If any of our members can help we shall be glad to receive subscriptions.

Sandsfoot Castle, Dorset.

The National Trust asked the Society to report what was necessary to protect and repair the ruins of Sandsfoot Castle. A professional member of the Committee visited and surveyed the building, and a report and approximate estimate was furnished to the Trust.

The actual structure is in need of some general works of repair and protection, but the chief danger is from the cliff, on the edge of which the building is situated.

Briefly, the Society recommended (1) that the Castle should be buttressed on the cliff side and protected from the sea; (2) the strengthening of certain weak points in the stonework; (3) the covering of the tops of the walls to prevent the soaking in of rain; (4) the repairing of wall surfaces and the stopping of holes where the weather is most likely to drive in; and (5) the guarding against the action of water trickling through the foundations.

Stokesay Church, Salop.

Most travellers on the railway between Shrewsbury and Ludlow must have noticed the fine group of mediæval buildings which form the castle and church of Stokesay. The growth of a modern town at Craven Arms within Stokesay parish gave rise some years ago to a project for enlarging and restoring the church, a project which, as described in the Annual Report for 1893, was abandoned in favour of another for building a new church at Craven Arms itself. This happy result was achieved by the representations of the Society, through a member of the Committee who happened to be on the spot. Last year the same member, hearing that it was proposed to restore the church as a memorial to the late Vicar, induced the Restoration Committee to obtain the advice of an architect in whom the Society has confidence, instead of undertaking the work without one; so

that the church, which really wanted repairing, has been made thoroughly safe and sound, and with one unfortunate exception retains its old character unimpaired.

Twenty or thirty years ago, Stokesay Church, apart from its fine position and its value in a group of more important buildings, would not have been considered a specially interesting ecclesiastical monument, but the havoc wrought among old churches since, has been so great, and the destruction of everything not "Gothic" so universal, that it would be difficult now to exaggerate its preciousness. The interior is filled with square oak pews, many of them carved, the pulpit, reading-desk, and elaborately canopied double squire's pew, are exceedingly picturesque. A western gallery, too, with quaint oak pillars and front of moulded panels and open-work, which was saved with great difficulty, is now much prized on grounds of utility, art, and history, even by its former enemies. In the lower part of the tower very curious evidences of an ancient school held there till within living memory have been carefully retained, including the pedagogue's desk, the rude beams of oak which compose the floor, and the hearth of stone and brick in the centre for a fire.

The only regrettable incident is that, contrary to the architect's instructions, some of the nave windows were filled with vulgar "cathedral" glass, which, however, does not replace any that was very old.

Stonehenge.

The Society will have learnt from the public press

hat an important scheme has been agreed on with regard to Stonehenge. Besides providing for under-pinning and securing stones the scheme includes a wire fence to enclose the monument. On this question of enclosure there has been considerable difference of opinion. The Committee believe that with railway and camp near at hand the stones will not be adequately protected unless they are fenced in, and that the proposed fence running on two sides along roads and on the third along a depression will not be a great disfigurement. It would naturally prefer that fencing should be dispensed with altogether, but is bound to consider first the preservation of Stonehenge and to look on all other questions as secondary.

Swinsty Hall, Yorks.

A member of the Society who happened to be travelling in the neighbourhood reported to the Committee that there was a danger of this house being destroyed owing to the Leeds Corporation acquiring all the farms and dwelling houses in the vicinity in connection with their waterworks scheme.

We have made careful inquiries into the matter, as we considered that an effort should be made to save the house, which is of considerable architectural merit. We gather that the Corporation of Leeds has a series of reservoirs in the valley of the Washburn, and near one of these reservoirs Swinsty Hall is situated. The Corporation propose to purchase Swinsty Hall, but our information is to the effect that they have no intention

of destroying the building or of raising the level of the water in the reservoirs, their object being to prevent contamination, and in this connection they have determined to purchase the land in the watershed of their reservoirs with a view of obtaining control over the land and buildings.

Under these circumstances the Society could of course raise no objection to the Corporation acquiring the house, but we addressed a letter to that body asking that the Society may be informed if after the property comes into their hands any works are contemplated which will affect the general character of the building.

Old Town Hall, Tonbridge.

The Tonbridge Urban District Council has given directions for the destruction of this building.

The Society surveyed the building, which is in the centre of the High Street, and found that it was probably built about 120 years ago, and was in a fairly good state of preservation. It has an arcade of good gauged brickwork of five bays on each side, and two bays at the south end. Above there is a large well-lighted hall, 42ft., 6in. long by 20ft., with a fine large bay window at the south end and a lobby and staircase at the north, over which there is a beautiful timber cupola, containing a clock bell dated 1849. All the timbers, as far as could be seen, are of oak, thus showing that it was erected in no mean spirit.

From this description it is clear that the building is one of considerable value, as we pointed out to the

Urban District Council. We also urged that it should be retained, repaired, and put to some useful purpose.

But the Council has decided upon its destruction, and probably by the time this is in print the structure will have been demolished and Tonbridge deprived of one of the buildings which go far to give the town so pleasant an aspect.

And for this act of vandalism the District Council gives no reason. In some cases the accommodation for traffic may be improved by the removal of buildings, but this cannot be urged here, as the roadway is 34ft. wide opposite the Town Hall, and only 20ft. wide beyond, in either direction.

The Local Council had no excuse on the ground of money, as they had a good offer of rent for the building.

Wilby Church, Norfolk.

The necessary works of repairs are now being carried out in consultation with the Society, and we hope to give a description of them in the next annual report.

Yatton Church, near Bristol.

This church first came under the Society's notice in April, 1896. An application to the Vicar at that date, for information concerning "works in progress," reported to the Society by a member, met with no response, and it was not until the following June that the new Vicar, the Rev. P. C. Barker, wrote assuring the Society of his readiness to let anything affecting the church be known, but, nevertheless, explaining nothing

as to the works reported and enquired about. A further letter from the Society asking for information received no reply.

In March of last year a note in the *Building News* announced that Plans and Specifications by the Diocesan architect had been considered and approved, and that the Diocesan architect had been instructed to obtain tenders for the work of taking down and rebuilding the spire, stair turret, and tower parapets. This scheme, as will be seen, the Society was indirectly instrumental in modifying, though unfortunately it was unable to prevent its being put in hand. The estimated cost given by the architect was £1,100.

The Diocesan architect's report had been read to the Building Committee and adopted on December 1st, 1899. In April, 1900, the Society was informed that there was some chance of preventing the proposed destruction of the spire, stair turret, etc., if experts could be sent down at once to examine and report; it having been urged upon the Committee that to decide the fate of such a building upon a single opinion would be a mistake.

The Society, therefore, offered to report upon the church, and its offer was at once accepted by the Vicar.

The Society wrote on May 4th, after an examination of the church by two of its professional members, to the Vicar, informing him that though considerable damage had been done by the unwise use of iron cramps in the masonry, yet that the main trouble lay in the faulty hanging of the bells, which had, in

1897, been rehung in a bell-cage braced with iron cross braces and bolted to iron girders fixed firmly in the old walls. This, it was explained, was the main cause of the dislocated masonry, and the Society added that it would be useless to attempt any work of repairs (or restoration) until this was rectified and the vibration of the bells taken off the walls by hanging them in a properly constructed oak bell cage. It was also recommended that the weight of the bell-cage should be taken at a stage lower, the character of the tower masonry indicating that this was at present placed too high.

The Society added that if this explanation was agreed to by the Committee, it would be willing to give further advice and all the assistance in its power, being convinced that the work could be mended permanently without rebuilding.

It is to be noted here that the Diocesan architect, though, as will be seen, he disagreed with the Society as to the bells having by their vibration caused the damage, yet attributes it to the fact that "the tower appears to have been shaken" (we quote from the *Clevedon Mercury* of December 1st, 1899). Neither he, nor Mr. Paul, who was afterwards consulted professionally, showed that they had even endeavoured to discover how this evident "shaking" had arisen.

Upon receiving the Society's letter, the Committee again consulted the Diocesan architect, whose opinion was that even thus there was no effectual treatment except to carry out his original scheme. The Building

Committee, thereupon, from motives of economy, combined with the desire to preserve their church tower as it was, asked the Society to name some one thoroughly versed in such work as the Society recommended. The Society, therefore, named several, including Mr. Detmar Blow, whom the Building Committee thereupon asked to examine and report upon the tower, etc., it being understood that the Society should bear all expenses in the matter.

Mr. Blow made a thorough examination of the building, and in his report pointed out the cause of the damage to the stair turret and to the spire (two points on which no explanation was offered by the Diocesan architect in his report recommending its destruction), and to the other masonry. At the same time he confirmed the previous statement of the Society that the bells were badly placed and badly hung and were the real and permanent cause of disturbance.

Mr. Blow further explained in detail the methods, many times successfully employed by him, of repairing such work, and estimated its probable cost at £500. He was convinced that it was no difficult matter to repair the masonry permanently without taking down.

The Building Committee having requested that a specification of the work as recommended by Mr. Blow might be prepared in order to obtain tenders, the Society pointed out that by the nature of the work proposed, and described in detail by Mr. Blow, it would be impossible for anyone to either specify it or tender for it with any accuracy, owing to the requirements not be-

ing ascertainable until the work should have been put in hand. Moreover, it was explained that the essence of wise repair was in avoiding contracts and in appointing someone qualified to superintend the work sympathetically and on the spot.

However, this was apparently unacceptable to the Building Committee. This was in July, 1900. In February, 1901, the Society heard that the top of the turret had been taken down and that the work of rebuilding was going forward. It was understood also that the Diocesan architect suggested that less of the spire might be taken down than he had originally considered necessary.

The following is a list of the Buildings which have come before the Society during the year :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| Abbots Langley Church, Herts. | Cadeleigh Church, Devonshire |
| Amroth Church, Pembrokeshire | Monument |
| Anwick Church, Lincolnshire | Cambridge University Library |
| Ashton-under-Hill, Gloucestershire, Pigeon House | Canterbury Cathedral, Kent |
| Avening Church, Gloucestershire | Chalgrave Church, Beds. |
| Aylesford, Kent, The Bridge | Charwelton Church, Northants. |
| Bampton, Oxon, Old Houses | Chatteris Church, Cambs. |
| Barking Church, Essex | Chester, St. Mary-on-the-Hill Ch. |
| Barnard Castle, Durham, Cromwell's House | Chevening Church, Kent |
| Basingwerk Abbey, Flints. | Chichester Cathedral, Sussex |
| Bath Abbey Church | Chichester City Cross, Sussex |
| Baulking Church, Berks. | Chiswick, Hogarth's House |
| Bayham Abbey Ruins, Sussex | Church Gresley Church, Derbyshire |
| Beaumaris Church, Anglesey | Clare, Suffolk, Old House |
| Bewcastle Church, Cumberland | Claverly Church, Shropshire |
| Billington Church, Beds. | Clayton Hall, Manchester |
| Binham Abbey Church, Norfolk | Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire, Old House |
| Bledlow Church, Bucks. | Cley-next-the-Sea Church, Norfolk |
| Blythe Bridge, near Coleshill, Warwickshire | Clonfert Cathedral, Co. Galway |
| Bourne, Lincolnshire, Old Red Brede Place, Sussex [Hall | Compton Martin Church, Somerset |
| Bredon Church, Warwickshire | Combe-in-Teignhead, Devon, Ironwork, Schoolhouse. |
| Brightlingsea, Essex, Old House | Coventry, Warwickshire, St. John's Church |
| Bristol, the Dutch House | Coventry, Warwickshire, St. Mary's Hall |
| Bristol, Old Houses, King Street | Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, St. Hilary's Church |
| Bristol, St. Peter's Hospital | Cranwell Church, Lincolnshire |
| Bromholme Priory, Norfolk | Croxden Abbey, Staffs. |
| Bronsil Castle, Herefordshire | Croydon, Surrey, Whitgift Hospital |
| Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, St. Mary's Church | |
| Buscot Church, Berks. | |
| Byland Abbey, Yorks. | |

- Cwm Church, Flints.
 Cyprus Antiquities
 Doe Castle, Co. Donegal
 Duddingston Church, N.B.
 Dunstable Church, Beds.
 Duxford, St. John's Church, Cam-
 bridge
 Eashing Bridge, Surrey
 Eastbourne, The Old Clergy
 House
 Eglwys Brewis, Glamorgan-
 shire
 Eglwys Cummin, Carmarthen-
 shire
 Elgin, N.B., Pluscardine Abbey
 Eskarvon, Dunderry, Co. Meath,
 the Moat
 Evesham, Worcestershire, Abbot
 Reginald's Gateway
 Evesham, Worcestershire, Old
 Exeter, Exe Bridge [Houses
 Exeter, The Guildhall
 Eynsford Castle, Kent
 Flamstead Church, Herts.
 Fleet Marston Church, Bucks.
 Fletton Church, Hunts.
 Fordingbridge Church, Hants.
 Fountains Abbey, Yorks.
 Frenze Church, Norfolk
 Geddington, Northants, Queen
 Eleanor's Cross
 Glastonbury, Somerset, St. John's
 Church
 Godalming, Surrey, the Market
 Hall
 Great Woolford, Warwickshire,
 Remains of Norman Clergy
 House
 Guildford Bridge, Surrey
 Guildford, Surrey, St. Mary's
 Church, Paintings
 Hacconby Church, Lincs.
 Haddington Church, N.B.
 Haddon Church, Northants.
 Hampton Court Palace, Ironwork
 removed from S. K. M.
 Hanley Castle, Worcestershire,
 Crosses
 Harlyn Bay, Cornwall, Ancient
 Burial Ground
 Harvington Church, Worcester-
 shire
 Hereford Cathedral
 Hereford, All Saints' Church
 Heysham, Lancs., Monuments etc.
 Hitchin, Herts. St. Mary's Church
 Howden Church, Yorks.
 Huddington Church, Worcester-
 shire
 Hughley Church, Shropshire
 Inglesham Church, Wilts.
 Iona Ruins, N.B.
 Ipswich, Suffolk, St. Nicholas Old
 Meeting House
 Keston Church, Kent
 Kirkwall, Orkney, St. Magnus
 Cathedral
 Lancaster Castle
 Langley Chapel, Shropshire
 Langtoft Church, Yorks.
 Launceston Castle, Cornwall
 Leicester, Huntingdon Tower
 High Street
 Leicester, Trinity Hospital
 Leyland Village Cross, Lincs.
 Leyton, Essex, The Great House
 Leyton, Essex, Monument in
 Churchyard
 Limpsfield Church, Surrey
 Linlithgow Palace, N.B.
 Lisieux, Vieux Manoir, Rue aux
 Féores
 Little Malvern Church, Worces-
 tershire
 Little Oakley Church, Essex
 Little Staughton Church, Beds.
 Llandanwg Chapel, Merioneth-
 shire
 Llanddwywe Church, Merioneth-
 shire
 Llanfihangel, Glyn Myfyr, Church,
 Merionethshire
 Llangelynin Chapel, Merioneth-
 shire
 Llangibby Castle, Monmouth-
 shire

- Llangibby Church, Monmouthshire
 Llanrwst Market Hall, near Conway
 London, All Hallows Barking Church
 London, Bethnal Green, Weavers Houses
 London, Catherine Court, E.C., Ironwork
 London, Christ's Hospital
 London, Clerkenwell, Crypt under the Priory Church of St. John
 London, Cripplegate, Old Houses
 London, 17 Fleet Street, E.C.
 London, Fulham, Sandford Manor House
 London, Hampstead, Weatherall House, Well Walk
 London, Holborn, Staple Inn
 London, Kilburn, The Grange
 London, Lincoln's Inn Fields Houses West side of
 London, St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church
 London, St. Mildred's Church, Bread Street
 London, Minories, Holy Trinity Church
 London, Newgate Prison
 London, The Tower
 London, Westminster Abbey
 London, Westminster, Paintings, Chapter House
 London, Westminster, Monument in St. Margaret's Church
 Long Bennington Church, Lincs.
 Long Crendon, Bucks., Court House
 Lydbury North Church, Shropshire
 Maidstone, Kent, College of all Saints
 Malmesbury Abbey, Wilts.
 Malpas Church, Cheshire
 Malvern Priory Church Windows, Worcestershire
 Manchester, The Hanging Bridge
 Markingfield Hall, Yorks.
 Marlborough, Wilts., The Market House
 Marston Magna Church, Somerset.
 Martock, Somerset, Manor House
 Meverley Church, near Oswestry, Salop
 Methley Church, Yorks.
 Minehead, Somerset, The Fish Market
 Morborne Church, Hunts.
 Much Wenlock Church, Shropshire
 Mundesley Old Church, Norfolk
 Navestock Church, Essex
 Newport Castle, Monmouthshire
 Norbury Church, Derbyshire
 Northampton, Queen Eleanor's Cross
 North Stoke Church, Oxon.
 Norton-juxta-Malton, Yorks, St. Nicholas Church
 Norwich Cathedral
 Old Flaunden, Herts., Ruins of Church
 Orford Church, Suffolk
 Orpington Priory, Kent
 Ottoman Antiquities
 Overton Church, Lancs.
 Oxford, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Oxford, The Tom Gate, Christchurch
 Portland, Dorset, Bow and Arrow Castle
 Patricio Church, Breconshire
 Radley Church, Berks
 Radnage Church, Bucks
 Ranworth Church, Norfolk
 Reading Abbey, Berks., The Hospitium
 Redbourn Church, Herts.
 Rievaulx Abbey, Yorks.
 Runwell Church, Essex

- St. Andrews, N.B., The Mercat Cross
 Saintbury Church, Gloucestershire
 St. Margaret's Church, Herefordshire
 St. Monan's Church, Fife
 Salisbury, Wilts, The Poultry Cross
 Sandon Church, Staffs.
 Sandsfoot Castle, Dorset
 Sandwich, Kent, The Barbican
 Sandwich, Kent, Old House
 Shrewsbury, Abbey Church, North Porch
 Skenfrith Church, Monmouthshire
 Snarford Church, Lincs., Monuments
 Southacre Church, Norfolk, Monument in
 Southam, Warwickshire, Old House
 Southampton, Mediaeval Hall, Simnel Street,
 Southampton, Town Walls
 Southcote House, near Reading, Berks.
 South Wraxall Manor, Wilts.
 Stokesay Church, Shropshire
 Stonehenge
 Stonehenge, Barrows near
 Stow Longa Church, Hunts.
 Stratford-upon-Avon Church, Warwickshire
 Stratford-upon-Avon, The Guild Chapel
 Sunningwell Church Porch, Berks.
 Swaffham Prior Church, Cambs.
 Swinsty Hall, Yorkshire
 Tantallon Castle, N.B.
 Thaxted Church, Essex
 Tintagel, Cornwall, Columbarium
 Tintern Abbey, Monmouthshire
 Tonbridge Castle, Kent
 Tonbridge, Kent, Old Town Hall
 Tonbridge, Kent, Portreeve's House
 Tremaine Church, Cornwall
 Tunbridge Wells, Kent, Church of King Charles the Martyr
 Wansford Church, Northants
 Waterford, The French Church
 Wendlebury Church, Oxon.
 "Westwood," Worcestershire
 Whicham Church, Cumberland
 Whitchurch Church, Devonshire
 Wicken Church, Cambs.
 Wilby Church, Norfolk
 Winchelsea Church, Sussex
 Winchester, Wolvesey Castle
 Windsor, Old Houses
 Withycomb Church, Somersetshire
 Witton-le-Wear Church, Durham
 Woburn Sands, Bedfordshire, Meeting House at
 Worlington Church, Suffolk
 Wrexham Church, Denbighshire
 Wymington Church, Beds.
 Wymondham Church, Norfolk
 Yatton Church Tower, Somerset
 York Minster

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

INGLESHAM CHURCH REPAIR FUND.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1888-1900.

Dr.

Cr.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Subscriptions and Collections	... 422 11 2	By Builders	... 506 8 8
*Conditional Subscription	... 40 0 0	Architect's out of pocket Ex-	
New College, Oxford	... 100 0 0	penses	... 23 3 4
		Printing	... 5 0 0
			534 12 0
		„ Balance transferred to the Building Fund	
		Account	... 27 19 2
	£562 11 2		£562 11 2

*Given conditionally upon the understanding that any balance remaining should be transferred to the Society's Building Fund Account.

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct.

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Auditor.

3rd May, 1901.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.
BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1900.

Dr.	RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.	Cr.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Donations 53 3 0	By Treasurer of the St. Nicholas	
Transferred from the Society's General Account 64 2 0	Old Meeting House, Ipswich,	
Balance transferred from the Inglesham 27 19 2	Repair Fund 10 0 0	
Church Repair Fund Account	Messrs. Jones Bros., Builders,	
		for works at Langley Chapel	71 16 5
		.. Cash at the London City and Midland	81 16 5
		Bank, 31st December, 1900	63 7 9
			<u>£145 4 2</u>

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct,

3rd May, 1901.

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Auditor.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1900.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance at the 31st December, 1899:—	83 19 11½	By Payments during the year 1900:—	
As per last Statement	Printing ..	28 8 1
" Receipts during the year 1900:—		Office Expenses, including	
Annual Subscriptions ..	301 14 6	Secretary's Travelling Ex-	
Donations	penses ..	31 17 6
Donations for the Repair of	5 9 0	Members' Travelling Expenses	26 7 2½
Langley Chapel, Shropshire	32 0 0	Secretary's Salary ..	120 0 0
Donation for the St. Nicholas		Clerk's Salary (including £10	
Old Meeting House, Ipswich,		Bonus ..	88 0 0
Repair Fund ..	10 0 0	Rent of Office ..	21 0 0
Donation for Repairs ..	1 1 0	Partial Supervision of Works,	
Donation for the Eglwys		Exeter Guildhall ..	10 0 0
Cummin Church Repair Fund	0 10 0	Vicar of Eglwys Cummin, for	
Received for Travelling Expenses		the Repair Fund ..	0 10 0
in Visiting Churches and Sale		Transferred to the Building	
of Reports ..	11 9 0	Fund Account ..	64 2 0
	302 3 6		390 4 9½
		Cash at London City and	
		Midland Bank, 31st Decem-	
		ber, 1900 ..	44 14 7
		Cash at Office ..	11 4 1
			55 18 8
			£446 3 5½

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct,

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Auditor.

3rd May, 1901.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, £1 is. or 10s. 6d.

Subscriptions to be sent to the Secretary, THACKERAY TURNER,
10, Buckingham Street, Adelphi.

Post Office Orders should be made payable at the General Post
Office. Cheques should be crossed "London City and Midland
Bank."

Bankers:—London City and Midland Bank, Limited, 449
Strand, W.C.

* These form the Committee.

A. C. Ainger, *Eton College, Windsor.*

*W. C. Alexander, *Aubrey House, Kensington.*

Mrs. Alexander, *Aubrey House, Kensington.*

W. H. Allchin, M.D., 5, *Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.*

*Sir L. Alma-Tadema, R.A., 17, *Grove End Road, St. John's Wood.*

Archibald Anderson, 30, *Oxford Square, W.*

Miss Sara Anderson, 46, *Warwick Gardens, Kensington.*

*T. Armstrong, *The Abbot's House, Abbots Langley, Herts.*

Rev. N. Green Armytage, *Boston, Lincs.*

Captain C. E. Arundel, 24, *Albion Street, Leeds.*

C. R. Ashbee, *Magpie and Stump House, 37, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.*

Mrs. Ashbee, 74, *Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.*

W. H. Ash, 51, *Hamilton Terrace, N.W.*

*Rt. Hon. Lord Avebury, *High Elms, Down, Beckenham, Kent.*

Commendatore Azzuri, *President of St. Luke's Academy, Rome.*
(Hon. Mem.)

Sir Hickman Bacon, *Bart., F.S.A., Queen Anne's Mansions, S.W.*

- Harold Baker, *The Biograph Studio*, 107, *Regent Street*, W.
 James Baker, F.R.G.S., *Sewelle Villa*, *Coldney Road*, *Clifton*.
 *Oliver Baker, 101, *Gough Road*, *Edgbaston*, *Birmingham*.
 *Lord Balcarras, M.P., 74, *Brook Street*, W. (Hon. Sec.)
 Miss A. B. Balfour, 10, *Downing Street*, S.W.
 *E. J. A. Balfour, 32, *Addison Road*, W.
 Geo. P. Bankart, *Brooms Grove*, *Worcestershire*.
 J. R. Barlow, *Greenethorne*, near *Bolton*.
 Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., M.D., 10, *Wimpole Street*, W.
 Rev. W. Miles Barnes, *Monkton Rectory*, *Dorchester*.
 Charles E. Bateman, *Birham*, *Castle Bromwich*.
 Arthur Bayley, *St. Margaret's*, *Imperial Road*, *Great Malvern*.
 Alfred Beavor, 36, *Danvers Street*, *Chelsea*.
 Rev. H. E. Beech, *Kingsley Rectory*, *Cheadle*, *Stoke-on-Trent*.
 Miss C. B. Beevor, 129, *Harley Street*, W.
 John Belcher, A.R.A., 20, *Hanover Square*, W.
 Charles F. Bell, *Ashmolean Museum*, *Oxford*.
 Edward Bell, F.S.A., *The Mount*, *Hampstead*.
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 Rev. C. H. Wright, *Keston Rectory, Beckenham.*
 The Hon. Sir. R. S. Wright, *Headley Park, Liphook, Hampshire.*
 A. G. Wyand.
 Rev. C. F. Wyatt, *Broughton Rectory, Banbury.*
 *Hon. Percy Wyndham, 45, *Belgrave Square, S.W.*
 Stewart Young, 20, *Montagu Square, W.*
 Mrs. Stewart Young, 20, *Montagu Square, W.*
 Miss Harriott Yorke, 190, *Marylebone Road, N.W.*
 J. R. Yorke, 2, *Chesham Street, W.*
 Count Zorzi, *Venice.* (Hon. Mem.)

If any Member finds his or her name incorrectly given, the Secretary will be obliged by the error being pointed out to him.

Obituary.

The Society regrets the loss by death of the following Members :—

F. S. Ellis.

Horace Gundry.

The Earl of Harrowby.

The Bishop of London (Dr. Creighton).

Judge Meynell.

Rev. James Porter, D.D.

Prof. G. C. Warr.

LONDON

WOMEN'S PRINTING SOCIETY, LIMITED
66 and 68, Whitcomb Street, W.C.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.
THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY; TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE; AND PAPER READ BY PROFESSOR W. R. LETHABY. JUNE 1902

“DO NOT LET US TALK THEN OF RESTORATION: THE THING IS A LIE FROM BEGINNING TO END.”—JOHN RUSKIN.

THACKERAY TURNER, SECRETARY,
10, BUCKINGHAM STREET, ADELPHI.

Committee.

W. C. ALEXANDER
Sir L. ALMA-TADEMA, R.A.
T. ARMSTRONG
Rt. Hon. Lord AVEBURY,
F.R.S., F.S.A.
OLIVER BAKER
Lord BALCARRES, M.P., F.S.A.
E. J. A. BALFOUR
Rev. OSWALD BIRCHALL
DETMAR J. BLOW
H. W. BREWER
Rev. STOPFORD A. BROOKE
Rt. Hon. JAMES BRYCE, M.P.
Prof. INGRAM BYWATER
The Earl of CARLISLE
J. COMYNS CARR
G. CHRISTOPHER CARTER
T. J. COBDEN-SANDERSON
SYDNEY C. COCKERELL
SIDNEY COLVIN
Rt. Hon. LEONARD COURTNEY
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Rt. Hon. EARL COWPER, K.G.
W. DE MORGAN
FRANK DILLON
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WICKHAM FLOWER, F.S.A.

ERNEST W. GIMSON
Rev. Canon GREENWELL,
F.R.S., F.S.A.
Hon. R. C. GROSVENOR
JOHN HEBB
J. P. HESELTINE
J. R. HOLLIDAY
W. HOLMAN HUNT
GEORGE JACK
H. C. KAY
JAMES KENNEDY
Rt. Hon. WM. KENRICK
S. WAYLAND KERSHAW, F.S.
CHARLES G. LELAND
W. R. LETHABY
VERNON LUSHINGTON, K.C.
NORMAN MACCOLL
Rev. NEWTON MANT, F.S.A.
ALFRED MARKS
A. H. HALLAM MURRAY, F.S.
PHILIP NORMAN, F.S.A.
Rev. T. W. NORWOOD
C. KEGAN PAUL
ROBERT PROCTOR
ESSEX E. READE
JOHN RICHMOND
Sir W. B. RICHMOND, K.C.B.
WALTER K. SHIRLEY

Committee.

LESLIE STEPHEN
J. J. STEVENSON, F.S.A.
EMERY WALKER, F.S.A.
GEO. Y. WARDLE
Sir THOMAS WARDLE
PHILIP WEBB

WILLIAM WEIR
F. A. WHITE
CHARLES C. WINMILL
A STUART WORTLEY
Hon. PERCY WYNDHAM

Honorary Secretaries:

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G. RUTTER FLETCHER, F.S.A., 13, Clifford's Inn, E.C.
Hon. R. C. GROSVENOR, The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants.
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Secretary:

THACKERAY TURNER, 10, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting the following notes upon the Society's work during the past year, the Committee thinks it not inopportune briefly to refer to the position of the Society now as compared with that of its early days.

At the time of the foundation of the Society in 1877, the craze for "restoration" was in full swing, and the only course open to the Committee was to strive to make its aims and objects widely known, and when cases of destructive restoration came before the Society to protest strongly against them.

This for many years was an uphill task, for it was painful to see large sums of money expended on the "restoration" of ancient buildings, which resulted in the loss of their authentic character as genuine works of art and records of the past, and, in addition, to see many buildings which required but comparatively small sums of money spent upon them, fall into ruin for want of timely attention.

As time went on the Society made frequent visits to threatened buildings and issued lithographed reports upon them. The reports contained advice of a practical nature as to the methods which should be adopted in carrying out the works of *repair* necessary in most cases. They also contained criticisms of the works of restoration contemplated and pointed out the disastrous effects of such works.

Much was done to disabuse the public mind as to the truth of the libel circulated by those opposed to us

that the Society would rather see ancient buildings fall to ruin than that they should be repaired.

The Society has in more recent years issued many leaflets bearing on the detailed subjects of repairing buildings and giving practical advice on each particular subject.

The efforts made have gradually borne fruit and whereas in its early days the Society could only protest, it is now often asked by the custodians of ancient buildings (as will be seen from the numerous cases mentioned in this report) to give advice with a view to the works of repair being undertaken in consultation with it, and many buildings have been repaired in this manner.

An important development of the Society's work took place in 1900, when a Building Fund was started. It had long been thought that if such a fund could be established, many who refuse to subscribe to works of "restoration" would subscribe to the Society's fund.

The Committee hopes that the Society may in particular cases (such as Eashing Bridge) carry out under its own supervision small works of repair to ancient buildings, and make small grants of money in cases where the works of repair are to be carried out in accordance with the Society's principles and with its approval.

In addition, the fund also enables those who wish to subscribe to works of repair to particular buildings, to send their subscriptions through the Society, to be given conditionally upon the works being done according to the principles of the Society.

The Committee attaches great importance to this

fund and it will be readily understood that to be able to give monetary help will materially strengthen the hands of the Society. Therefore the Committee hopes for subscriptions to the fund, not only from the members of the Society but from all lovers of ancient works of architecture.

Beaumaris Church, Anglesey.

The Committee was informed that it was proposed to carry out some works to the above-named building, and it wrote to the Rector offering to visit and report upon the building.

This offer the Rector accepted, and the church was surveyed by one of our Birmingham members, who has had considerable experience in dealing with ancient buildings.

A full report was sent to the Rector and the Committee hoped that the advice given therein would have been followed, the more so as our member was asked to give some idea of the probable cost of the works therein specified, but we learn with regret that an extensive scheme is proposed which we fear will greatly detract from the interest of the building from the historical and artistic point of view.

Blythburgh and Walberswick Churches, Suffolk.

On more than one occasion we have referred to these most valuable buildings in the Society's annual reports.

A short time since a paragraph appeared in the *Times* appealing for funds to carry out some repairs to Blythburgh Church. On applying to the Vicar for information he informed the Society that he was

expecting an Architect to visit and report upon the building, and that he would allow the Society to know his recommendations. At a later date the Vicar very kindly allowed us to see the reports which had been prepared on both buildings.

These reports contain recommendations of a most drastic nature ; and we therefore addressed a letter to the Vicar in which we stated that we were taken aback by them, as they might have been written fifteen or twenty years ago, and if the recommendations contained therein were carried out, they would involve the destruction from an artistic and historical point of view of the buildings they deal with. We appealed to the Vicar to reconsider the question and expressed a hope that the Architect would see his way to abandon "restoration," and consider how he could repair the buildings in the simplest way.

The Vicar in reply stated that so long as he was incumbent nothing would be done, but he could not bind his successor, who would probably come into office in July or August, and he recommended the Society to approach the new Vicar when appointed.

This we shall hope to do and we trust our efforts will be successful, for the churches, more particularly that of Blythburgh, are of world-wide reputation.

Chipping Warden Church, Northants.

This building is one of singular beauty and interest, and it has fortunately escaped restoration.

At the request of the Rector the Society visited and reported upon the church. The present building probably occupies the site of a twelfth century edifice,

as the chancel contains the remains of work of that date. This building was evidently rebuilt in the thirteenth century, to which date the chancel belongs, and the nave would appear to have been again rebuilt on the old plan in the fourteenth century.

The church is of unusual size and the mason's work is very fine. One truss of the nave roof still keeps the remains of a brilliant colour decoration, and there are traces of old paintings on the walls. A few fragments of ancient painted glass remain.

The works recommended by the Society comprise the warming of the building, the repair and improvement of the Queen Anne and Georgian seats, which were uncomfortable, the repair of the timber and lead-work of the nave and aisle roofs, and the repair and underpinning of the walls; the repair of masonry and lead-glazing of the windows, the removal of the earth abutting on the walls of the building, and the repair of the tower walls, belfry windows, pinnacles and the bell frame.

The Society's recommendations received the approval of those in authority and the works of repair were commenced in the late autumn of last year. It was decided only to carry out the internal repairs during the winter.

The old clerk's desk and box pew were removed from the entrance to the chancel and the Georgian pulpit was repaired. The difficulty of making use of the clerk's desk was solved by dividing it in half, and, with the addition of a very little new oak, using the halves as priest's desks.

The "Gurney" stove was repaired and moved to the

west end of the south aisle. The windows were next taken in hand and nine of them have been repaired. No new stone was required, but in two cases cracked mullions had to be drilled and bound together by copper cramps. Galvanised iron saddle-bars were also added to strengthen the mullions. Some pieces of the glazing had to be re-leaded, but in most cases they were gone over and patched, cracked pieces of glass being retained by running a lead along the crack. This somewhat difficult method of repair was adopted on account of the beautiful colours the glass had acquired by age.

The repair of the nave roof and tower is now being put in hand.

The Committee has promised to contribute £5 from the Society's Building Fund to the fund for the repair of this church.

Claverley Church, Salop.

At the request of the authorities this building was visited by two professional members of the Committee, and a detailed report was forwarded to the Vicar.

The church consists of nave with north and south aisles, porch to south aisle with room over, a tower eastwards of the south aisle and porch, and a chancel with chapels north and south of it, belonging to the Gatacre family.

The west wall of the nave dates back to the early part of the twelfth century, and it shows the line of an early steep gable. In Perpendicular times it was raised to form a clerestory, and at this date the west walls of the aisles were built.

The south nave arcade appears to be of the thirteenth century, and the clerestory above it is of Perpendicular work.

The tower is of Norman date, with an additional stage added in the fifteenth century to form a belfry. A sixteenth century archway has been inserted between the ground storey of tower and the south (Gatacre) chapel.

The building generally is in a sound condition but needs careful repair.

We gather from the public press that the works are now in progress, but if the description of them which the Society has seen is correct, they are not in accordance with the Society's recommendations.

Compton Martin Church, Somerset.

The Committee learnt that it was proposed to restore this building, and as we knew it to be one of value, it was arranged that one of the professional members of the Society should survey it.

Before doing so, however, we thought it right to inform the Rector, at the same time expressing a hope that he would have no objection to our member making the necessary examination.

This resulted in our having some correspondence with the Rector, and finally he stated that provided our representative first approached the Architect, Mr. Graham Jackson and obtained his sanction, he (the Rector) would have pleasure in acceding to the Society's request.

We therefore wrote to the Architect and informed him that the Rector had desired the Society, prior to

visiting, to ask him whether he had any objection to our seeing the building before any works were undertaken, and we therefore made a formal application to him on this point.

The following was Mr. Jackson's reply :—

"I understand from Mr. Burland that he does not desire a visit from your representative, nor do I myself see any necessity for it."

The Committee did not for one moment expect the Architect would see the necessity for the Society to visit, but we thought that, as we held a contrary opinion, he would put no obstacle in the way of our doing so.

But the action of the Rector and Architect raises a serious question. The Rector is but the temporary guardian of the building, and it seems preposterous that, because his Architect sees no reason for our examination of the building, he should give him permission to refuse our request.

The result is that the Society has been prevented from doing its duty, and Mr. Jackson has been successful in stifling any criticisms or objections to his scheme which might have been made. For if it follows on the lines of his treatment of the Tower of St. Mary's Church, Oxford, it would have received the Society's most strenuous opposition, had we been able to make the necessary survey.

St. Mary's Hall, Coventry.

The Committee was alarmed at notices which appeared in the public press to the effect that tenders were invited for works to be done to the valuable fourteenth century buildings comprising St. Mary's

Hall, Coventry, and the Society communicated with the City Council upon the subject.

As a result two members of the Society visited the building at the invitation of the Chairman of the Estates Committee of the City Council, who explained what was proposed, and shewed the Society's representatives the work in course of execution; and they reported to the Committee in due course.

In the ancient kitchen at the south end of the main buildings, which was probably the original hall of the Guild, a corbel once supporting one of the roof timbers having perished, another of white stone has been provided.

This new corbel has been carved to represent a grotesque head with conventional foliage, copied from a corbel in another part of the building.

This carving is unfortunate, for the rest of this exceedingly interesting room is either genuine old work, or frankly modern arrangements for cooking, and it would have been better to have put in a simple plain corbel, such as was needed to carry the oak post, as a piece of repair.

This seems to have been the only work which could be called restoration, the rest of the work in progress or contemplated being undertaken to sustain and uphold those parts of the building which were giving way.

The little quadrangle, which is entered from the street under a groined archway, has two of its sides bounded by buildings of half timber work, and in that on the south side the uppermost storey hangs over the lower and is built of oak framing filled with panelling and enriched externally with cusped arches, above which light

tracery is pierced and glazed for windows. The roof of this part is covered with lead, and the timbers which are visible in the uppermost room are united with oak boards to form a ceiling with a flat top and sloping sides.

The whole of this upper storey has fallen forward towards the quadrangle and actually leans against the last of the great buttresses of the hall.

It is in other respects in fair condition considering its age and the slightness of its construction.

At either end of the upper chamber are thick walls and an iron girder has been placed from wall to wall along the bottom of the inside of the wall facing the quadrangle so as to take the weight and prevent the subsidence increasing. This girder is to be covered by a desk.

The Society understands that opinions have been expressed against this plan of supporting the building as it is, and in favour of taking down this part of the fabric as a preliminary to its thorough restoration. The Committee is firmly convinced that such a building as this cannot be taken down without great and irreparable loss to its ancient character and genuineness as a piece of authentic fourteenth century architecture. Its original workmanship and its present condition are such that, while with care and attention it is capable of enduring for a great many years, much of it would have to be replaced with new work when once taken to pieces.

Therefore the Society considers the present plan of supporting it with a girder an excellent one. As, however, the roof timbers when examined showed a

decided tendency to thrust outwards, the Committee expressed the opinion that it would be well to put at least two tie rods across at the wall-plates and going right through the framing and spiked to the sides of the two principals.

The remainder of the works, whether completed, in hand, or contemplated, appear to the Society to be those of necessary repair, such as the recasting of lead on roofs, strengthening timber work, re-building parapet, etc.

The Committee is glad to be able to report that with the exception of the new corbel in the kitchen the work seems to have been pursued on very wise lines with a view simply to the reparation and upholding of the ancient work and not to the setting up of copies or "restorations" of it.

St. Saviour's Church, Dartmouth.

A rumour reached the Society to the effect that it was proposed to destroy the unique galleries in this building.

The Committee made inquiries of the Vicar as to the truth of the rumour, and he very kindly informed the Society that there is no question whatever of removing the galleries.

The Vicar's reply is most satisfactory, for the galleries are essential to the interest of the building, which is referred to in our 1884 and 1888 reports.

The Chapel Ceiling, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin.

This ceiling is reputed to have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, but whether this is the case or not,

it is a very fine example of seventeenth century plaster-work.

It is, therefore, with regret we have to report that it is to be (or has been) removed to the Dublin museum, a facsimile copy taking its place in the Chapel. The reasons given for this action are that the key of the stucco-plaster has almost gone in places, that the laths are in a bad state, and that the timbers to which the laths and ceiling are fixed are decayed.

We should have thought with careful consideration a scheme could have been devised for retaining the ceiling, and we should have been glad to have given a report upon the subject, but our representative was informed that the matter had been definitely settled.

Eashing Bridge, Surrey.

We gave an account of this bridge in our last report and we now have great pleasure in stating that the work of repair which the Society undertook was completed to the satisfaction of the National Trust, and we give a balance sheet at the end of this report.

The case shows how at times, at any rate, it is much more economical to undertake works without a contract.

Exeter Cathedral Bells.

The Society learnt that it was proposed to rehang the bells of Exeter Cathedral, and it gathered that the scheme included a proposal to cut off the ancient cannons.

We addressed a letter to the Dean and Chapter, but as our letter only received a formal acknowledgment,

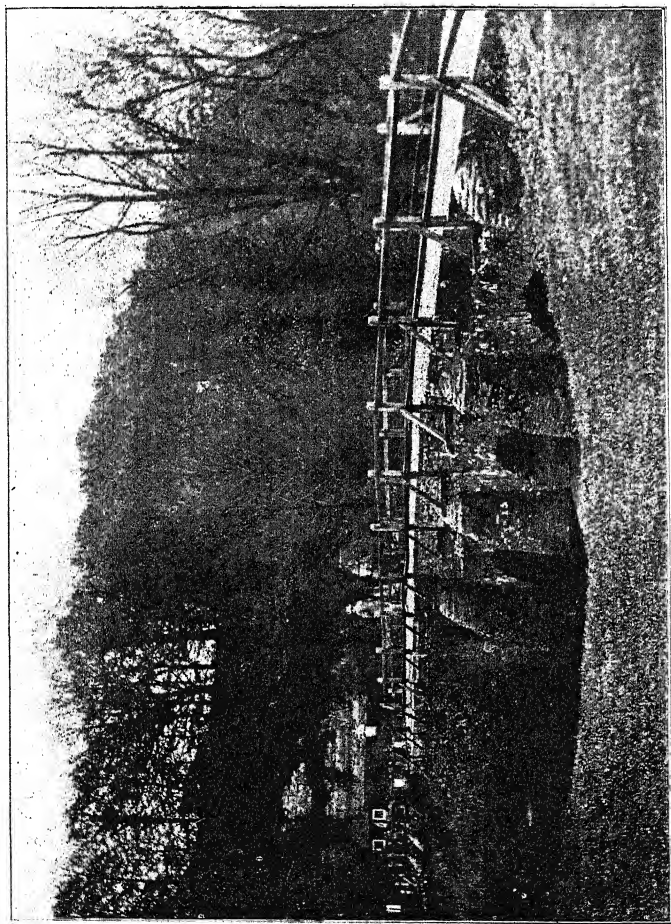
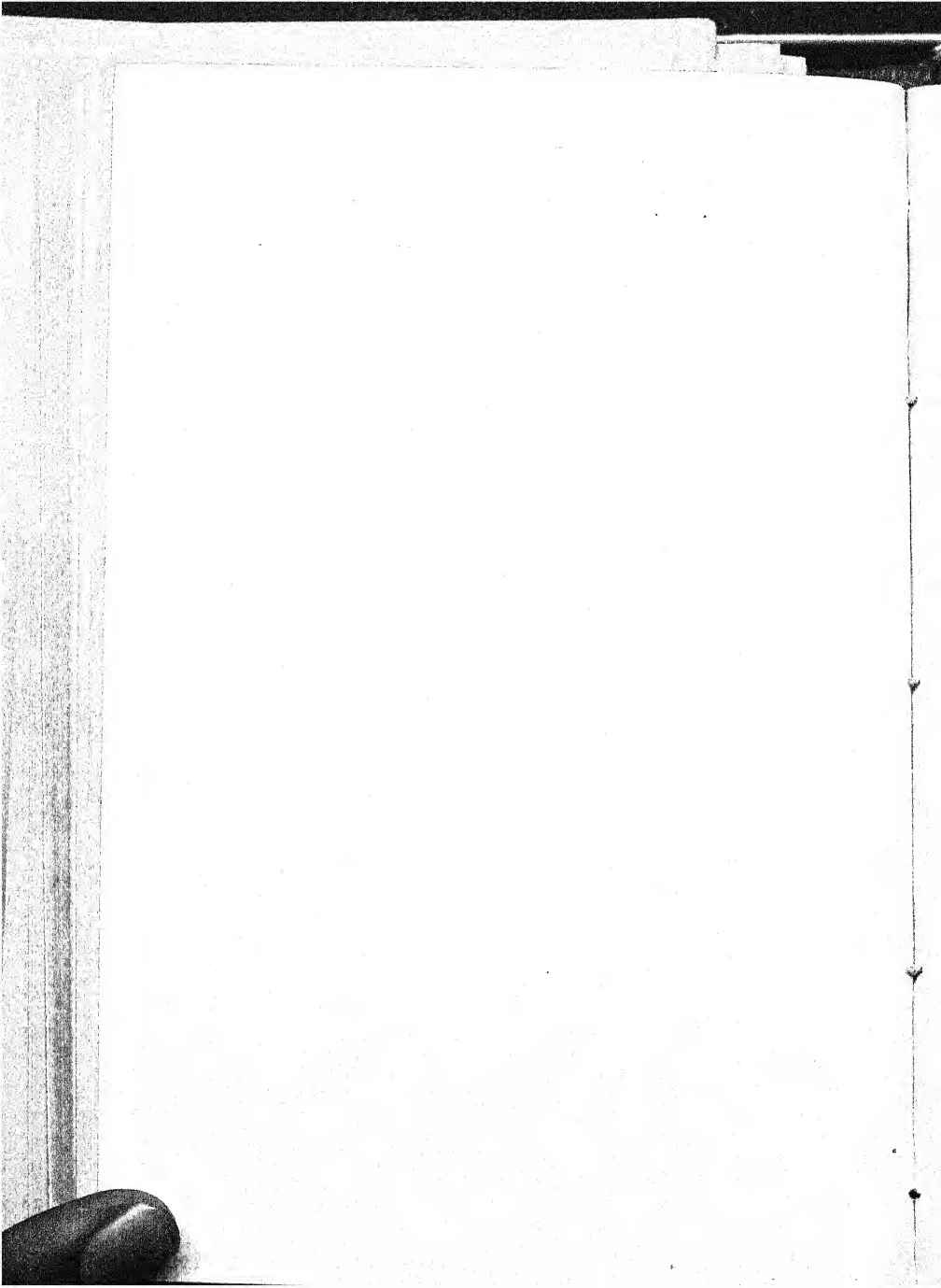


Photo : ALBERT E. COCKERELL.

EASHING BRIDGE, SURREY

Now repaired and the property of the National Trust



after some correspondence in the local paper, the following letter was sent to the *Times*, and appeared on the 17th February, 1902.

EXETER CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor of the "Times."

SIR,

The bells of Exeter Cathedral—one of the most important peals in the country—are so well known, and so many bell-ringers have their attention concentrated upon the action of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter with regard to the bells, that my committee trusts you will consider the subject worthy of the great publicity which your journal can give it.

The question involved is a simple one—*viz.*, whether the existing ancient bells shall or shall not be mutilated. We understand the present scheme provides for cutting off the cannons—*i.e.*, the metal loops at the crown of the bell by which it is attached to the oak stock—and also that it is proposed to recast the tenor, the well-known "Grandisson" bell which was cast in the year 1729.

Many well-known firms who undertake the work of repairing and rehangng bells are of opinion that it is quite unnecessary to cut off the cannons, and, moreover, that the process of cutting them off and securing the crown of the bell direct to the oak stock by means of bolts passing through the bell deteriorates the quality of the sound and involves a risk of cracking the bell. Others say that a bell recast does not have the same rich tone so commonly possessed by ancient bells. Possibly this may be caused by the quick method of smelting by coal with enforced draught as opposed to the old slow method of smelting with wood or charcoal.

Be these points as they may, my Society considers that custodians should always give the benefit of the doubt to the safer scheme, and it hopes that it may still not be too late to persuade the Dean and Chapter to retain the cannons and not have their "Grandisson" recast.

Whatever experts may think, the Exeter bells are greatly admired as they are. We know there is no necessity for cutting off the cannons, and no necessity for recasting "Grandisson," and, therefore, until a nearer approach to unanimity exists as to the desirability of the proposed scheme surely it must be wiser, as we have said, to keep on the safe side.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
THACKERAY TURNER.
Secretary.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,
10, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.,

February 14th.

We may add that where it is necessary to quarter turn a bell, this can be done by fixing a wooden box over the crown staple and bolting a false staple thereto. This course obviates the necessity of drilling the crown of the bell.

Frenze Church, Norfolk.

Some time since, the Society learnt that it was proposed to carry out some works to this valuable, unrestored building, at the expense of Mr. Edward Mann. The Committee, therefore, asked our member, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, whether he could kindly approach Mr. Mann upon the subject. This His Highness kindly consented to do, and, owing to his good offices, we are pleased to be able to report that the church has been repaired with but little loss of interest.

The building was examined on behalf of the Society at the completion of the works, and although there are one or two points in the repairs to which the Society might take exception yet the general result is so good

that the Committee felt justified in writing to Mr. Mann and expressing its satisfaction at the manner in which the work had been carried out, and also the Society's gratitude to him and the architect for having so kindly listened to the suggestions made by Prince Frederick Duleep Singh.

Market Hall, Godalming.

In our last report we stated that this building had been saved from destruction by the action of the Society and others interested in the matter.

Unfortunately, certain members on the Town Council took up the position that the building was useless, and consequently that the Council had no right to spend money upon putting it into repair.

We are glad to be able now to report that the Town Council has decided to give a lease of the building to Mr. Thackeray Turner, who has undertaken to put it into repair and find a suitable use for it.

We attach great importance to the preservation of this building.

Town Wall, Great Yarmouth.

A report appeared in a local paper last December, to the effect that the Town Council of Great Yarmouth had assented to the demolition of a portion of the ancient Town Wall, and the Society wrote to the Town Council respectfully urging that body to re-consider its decision. It was pointed out that such walls are of great historical value, as well as an honour and glory to the town possessing them.

The Town Council, however, decided to adhere to its

decision, which is the more to be regretted as the object in view, could, we understand, have been attained without destroying the portion of wall.

Guildford Bridge.

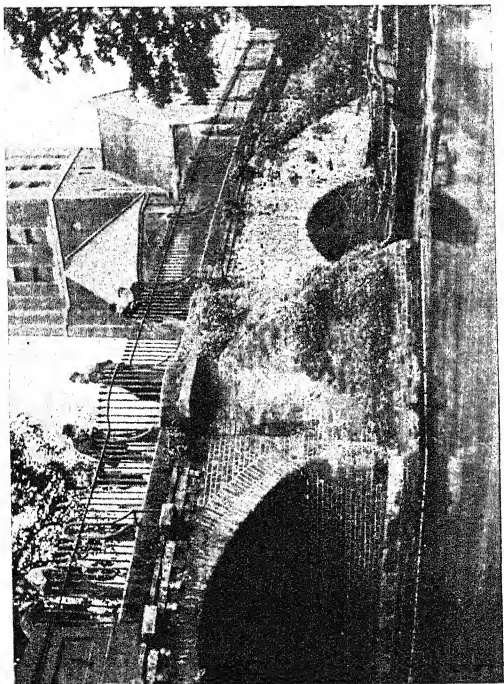
We gave a somewhat full account of this bridge in our last report.

The new steel bridge is now completed. In describing its merits the local press says it has been skilfully designed so as to avoid shewing any of the rivets used in its construction. This end has been attained by putting up large cast iron spandrels designed with circles and cusps through which the diagonal braces of its construction are seen, the spandrels themselves forming no part of the construction.

The parapets over the centre part of the bridge are of cast iron and designed with a series of circles, filled in with large trefoiled cusps, the whole being "picked out in assorted tints." This parapet is continued on either side by a stone parapet, which most masons would wish to disown as their work.

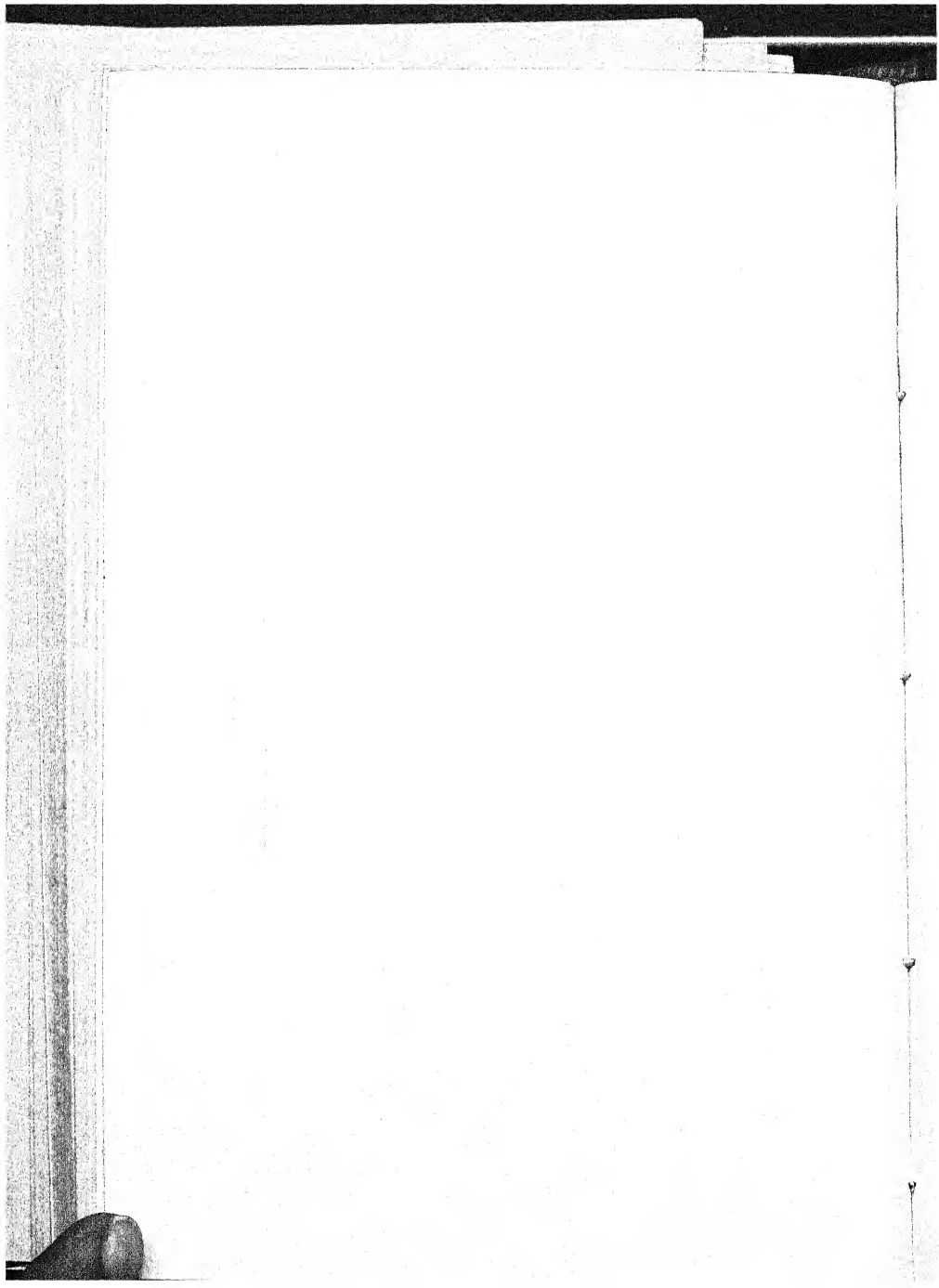
Iona.

The late Duke of Argyll made over the ruins at Iona to Trustees to be held by them in connection with the Church of Scotland. The deed of gift sets forth that it was his Grace's wish that the Cathedral should be re-roofed and restored, so as to admit of its being used for public worship and that the fabric should be carefully preserved. It is estimated that the cost of restoring the choir, transepts, tower and nave, and providing a small amount for future upkeep would be about £20,000, and an appeal has been made for this sum.



GUILDFORD BRIDGE, SURREY

Now destroyed



The Trustees appealed to the Society for assistance in raising funds, and a reply was sent to the effect that every support which lies within the power of the Society would be given as soon as it was satisfied that the work which is to be done will be carried out in accordance with the Society's principles.

Recently we learnt that a section of the work was to be taken in hand and upon applying to the Trustees they very kindly allowed the Society to see the Architect's drawings and specification.

The Committee went through them with great care and reluctantly came to the conclusion that the Society could not support the proposals as then set forth.

The roofs proposed are designed without tie-beams with timbers of small scantlings, and are to be constructed, to a considerable extent, of American oak, and there is a large amount of imitative work in them.

We pointed out to the Trustees that such roofs were out of place on an ancient building, and suggested that if they could not afford English oak, fir should be used, for it is thought to be more durable than American oak. We also made suggestions as to slates, clear glass, and ridges of roofs.

The Trustees informed the Society that they had brought the matter before their Architect, and he had adopted the suggestions as to glass, slates and ridges; but with regard to the construction of the roofs he was confident that it would be sufficient, as it was much the same as that used, among other places, in Westminster Hall.

In reply, we pointed out that while a roof such as the Architect had designed, placed on new walls may not

be objectionable because the walls being "green" would bend outwards until the strain comes upon the collars of the roof, if such a roof is placed upon old walls, when the weight of its covering comes upon it, there must be *some* expansion in the span below the collars, and the walls have to move outwards until the strain comes upon the collars. This results in cracking the walls.

We added that Westminster Hall roof was an unfortunate example for the Architect to have given, as it has been a cause of anxiety, and much money has been expended in strengthening it with tie-rods.

Our contention was that no risks should be run, and that substantial unwrought fir roofs with tie-beams, and with much bigger timbers than those of the proposed roofs, could be placed on the building at certainly no greater cost, and probably at less, with the result of perfect security, and greater dignity of effect.

We learn, however, that the roofs must be erected as designed, as the material is bought. The Committee has, therefore, begged that it may be allowed in the future to consider the details of any fresh undertaking before it is definitely settled on.

King's Cople Church, Herefordshire.

The Society was informed by a correspondent that it was proposed to replace the ancient perpendicular stone tracery of the east window of the chancel of this church with new stone tracery, in order that stained glass might be introduced.

It appears the local mason considered the stone would not stand the hacking out of the old leads, and that the glass painter objected to the inaccuracies of the tracery.

Our correspondent, who is an architect, informed the Society that the window could easily be repaired.

We wrote to the Vicar, and appealed to him to reconsider the question, but he replied that he could hold out no hope of the work "now contemplated, and in actual progress at the church, being abandoned."

As, however, we learnt that the chancel is the property of the Dean and Chapter of Hereford, we addressed a letter to that body calling their attention to the matter, and in reply we were informed by the Dean that no application had been formally made to the Dean and Chapter with regard to the alteration of the window and if such an application had been made it would have been refused. The Dean added, he understood from the Chapter Clerk that whatever might have been the intention of the Vicar, there was then no idea of making any change in the window.

The Society, in thanking the Dean for his letter, informed him that it would not have ventured to trouble him had it not been for the statement contained in the Vicar's letter.

We thought the matter had been successfully concluded, when, to our great surprise, we learnt from our correspondent three weeks later, that the window had been taken out, and we at once informed the Dean, but so far we have heard nothing further.

As we understand the subject, the action of the Vicar is entirely illegal, for in any case a faculty should have been obtained. But the Society has, during its existence, had experience of similar cases, and we hope the authorities will take energetic action to prevent the repetition of such acts.

Little Wenham Church, Suffolk.

This church is an interesting building of the thirteenth century, and consists of chancel, nave and tower.

The Society was appealed to for help, but unfortunately we could not arrange to visit until the works of repair had progressed considerably.

Our surveyor reported that a new roof of deal had been put on the nave, two old tie-beams being retained. The old hand-made tiles had also been reused.

A bed of concrete had been laid over the area of the nave, upon which it was proposed to put wood-block flooring.

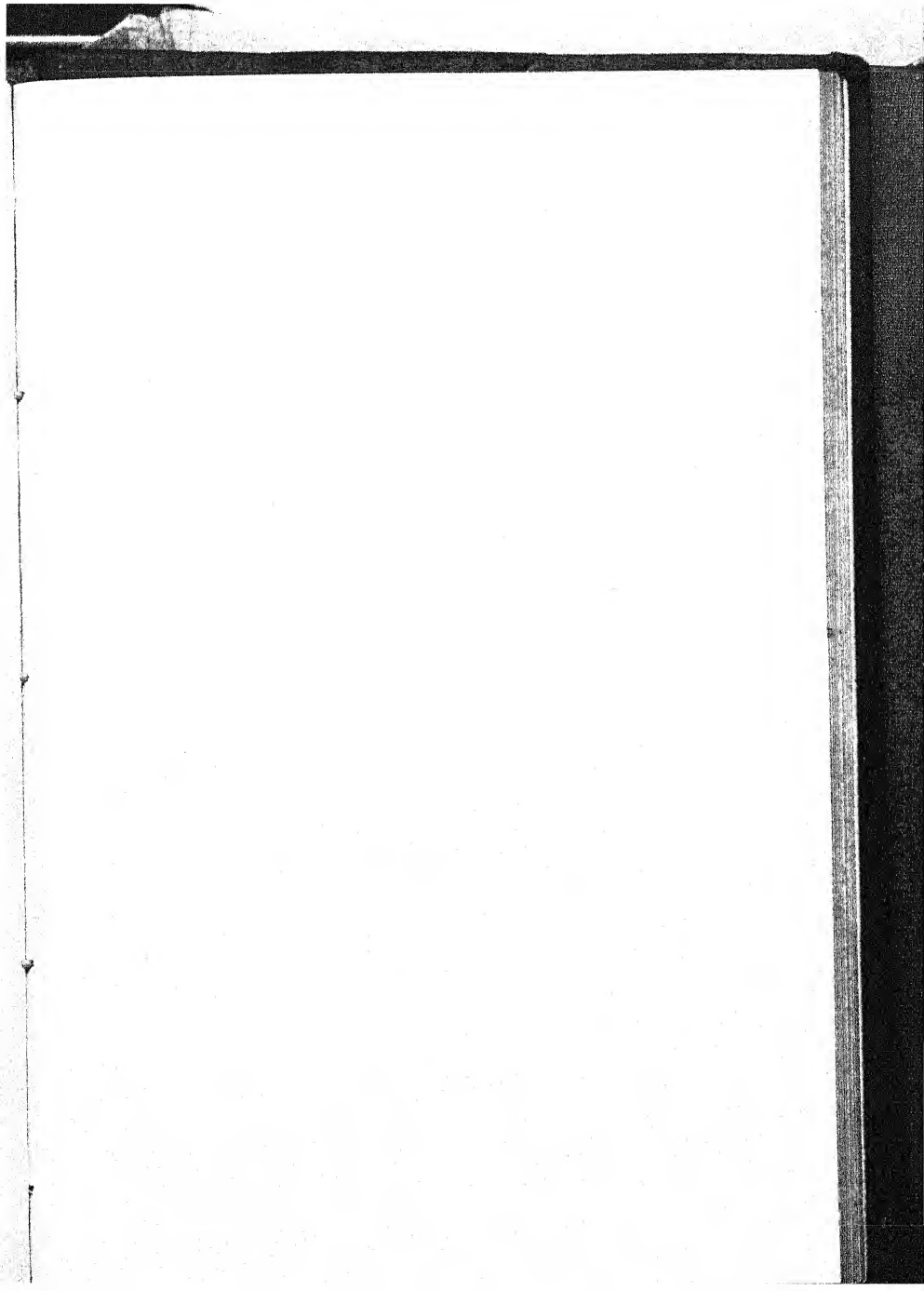
The glass in the nave had all been broken (the church being disused), and was being reglazed with leaded lights of clear glass. The chancel windows have modern green glass, and were to be repaired.

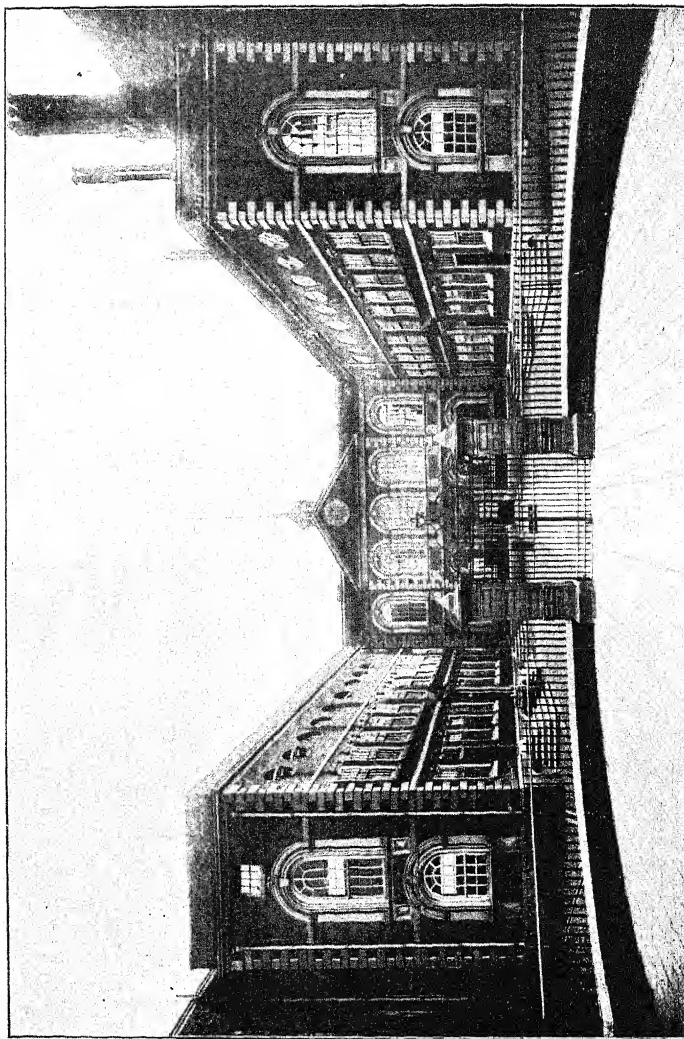
In the north wall a doorway and stair to rood loft have been opened up. The plaster on the walls, which is ancient, has been repaired, and the upper brick portion of the tower has been pointed.

Some ancient wall paintings were found in the building, the colours being very faint and principally green and red.

Our member pointed out that the two tie-beams in the roof were insufficient, and that a bad crack existed in the north wall of the chancel, near the east angle, shewing inside and out, and requiring to be repaired.

The Committee called the attention of the Churchwarden to these two points and urged that two iron tie-rods with coupling-boxes in the centre should be provided, and added that it would feel disposed to make a grant of £5 to the work if its suggestion was carried out.





The Churchwarden has replied thanking the Society for its letter and suggestions, which he has promised to attend to.

We hope the tie-rods will be introduced, otherwise we fear that before long much greater expense will be entailed by having to repair the damage done to the walls by the thrust of the roof.

Ancient Buildings, Liverpool.

In the course of its work the Committee has noticed that in the large modern cities, when any alteration is proposed, ancient buildings are invariably attacked. In some cases, of course, this cannot be avoided, but there are many instances in which the object in view can be attained without destroying anything ancient.

The City of Liverpool contains such a small number of buildings of value, that it is the more particularly to be deplored that three of these are in danger of destruction; *viz.*, the Blue Coat School, built in 1717, a print of which we give; St. Peter's Church, built in 1700; and the Old Town Hall, built in 1748.

In the case of the Blue Coat School, we fear it is useless to move further in the matter, for it would cost no less a sum than £80,000, the price at which the site is valued, to save the buildings.

The site is to be occupied by a station of the Manchester and Liverpool Electric Express Railway. We have seen a design for the station which is to take the place of the School, and it is what would certainly be called a reasonably good design for a modern building, but anyone with a knowledge of architecture having a photograph of the School and a drawing of the

proposed station before him, could not fail to appreciate the vast difference between the two, and the great loss which the City must suffer by the substitution of the station for the School.

The Liverpool Cathedral scheme contemplates the extinction of the Rectory of Liverpool, the removal of St. Peter's Church, and the sale of the churchyard. This again appears to be a question of money, but as the matter is not likely to be settled for some time we hope there may be a chance of the building being preserved.

With regard to the Town Hall, there are rumours with reference to it, but they are only rumours, and we have heard of no definite scheme for interfering with it. It is stated that the projecting portico interferes with the tram traffic. This building is of such value that it ought to be preserved at all costs, and we trust that the people of Liverpool will not permit it to be interfered with.

London, Christ's Hospital.

This fine group of buildings will, alas, shortly cease to exist.

The Society acted in unison with the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society, the Kyrle Society, the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, and the National Trust, in attempting to save some portions of the buildings and open space, but without result.

It is not within the province of this Society to express any opinion as to the wisdom of removing the School from London, but the Society is strongly of opinion that the destruction of such buildings as Christ's

Hospital and Emanuel Hospital, Westminster, is from the artistic point of view, a distinct loss to London, for which there is no corresponding gain, and when the question of open space is taken into consideration the loss is all the more to be deplored.

London, Sandford Manor House, Fulham.

This house, which is the property of the Gas Light and Coke Company, and stands in the grounds occupied by their works, is, we fear, doomed.

We have been in correspondence with the Gas Company to see if it were not possible to save the structure, but we are convinced that there is little probability of any scheme which has for its object the retention of the building, and the putting of it to some useful purpose, being adopted.

This is to be deplored, as the house is interesting, more particularly the interior, and it has valuable historical associations.

The Society would have been grateful to the Gas Company if they could have seen their way to retaining the house and using it in connection with their works.

London, Houses at Hampstead.

In our last report we referred to the action of the London School Board in scheduling the site of Weatherall House, Well Walk, Hampstead, but we were then able to report that the scheme had been abandoned.

Unfortunately, however, the Board has now put forward a fresh scheme, by which the sites of Nos. 7 and 9 Well Walk are scheduled, or, as an alternative, the sites of some interesting houses in the Grove.

Although the Board does not now schedule the site of Weatherall House, as a matter of fact, Nos. 7 and 9 Well Walk are reputed to have formed, with Weatherall House, the Assembly Rooms of the Hampstead Spa, Weatherall House itself having been the Long Room.

We have urged the School Board to seek another site, instead of insisting upon one of the two sites now scheduled.

We are glad to be able to report that the Board of Education has rejected both the sites.

Proposed Widening of Mill Street, Maidstone.

The Maidstone Urban District Council has put forward a scheme for widening Mill Street on the western side.

As we gathered that the scheme if carried out as proposed would involve the destruction of ancient work, the Committee made arrangements for one of its Architect members to visit Maidstone.

After considering his report, plans and sketches, the Committee came to the conclusion that the street could be best widened on the east and not the west side, for the widening on the western side would involve the destruction of the interesting Gate House and the beautiful mediæval bridge. If the street were widened on the eastern side no appreciable harm would be done.

The Gate House contains traces of early work in the windows now blocked up. One on the south side has a round head and is probably of Norman date, while others on the north side appear to be of Early English date.

The position of the Gate House is most picturesque, and helps to form a charming group viewed from the west side of the Old Bridge.

The bridge in Mill Street is in itself of sufficient value to decide the question. The old pointed arches as seen from the west side are quite charming, but on the east side the Mill Pond, being on a higher level, hides the view of the arches which are below the level of the pond.

The Gate House is the property of the Palace Trustees, and the Committee, therefore, wrote to that body asking it not to sell the building for the purpose of widening a street which would be better widened from the opposite side. We also wrote to the custodians of the bridge, the Corporation of Maidstone, urging them not to consent to the destruction of the bridge, and lastly we addressed a letter to the Urban District Council begging that the matter should be reconsidered.

Onibury Church, Shropshire.

The subject of Onibury Church has been before the Society for many years. It was visited in 1892, and, at the request of the Patron, the Secretary surveyed the building early in the present year.

Although the church at first sight may appear rather a plain building, as a matter of fact it possesses valuable characteristics which are often lacking in more ornate churches.

The architecture of every century from the twelfth to the seventeenth is represented, and in some cases rather strikingly. Thus, the chancel arch is of early Norman

work, while the chancel itself, with its lancet windows, dates from the thirteenth century. The bowl of the font also belongs to this period, although the stem was probably added during the following century.

The mode of working with wood in the fourteenth century is particularly well represented by the porch, and the peculiar form of the doorway beneath exhibits the skill of the early builders in introducing with the most happy results forms which in less skilful hands would be incongruous.

A square headed window with tracery on the south side of the nave was added in the fifteenth century, while the sixteenth century is worthily represented by the pulpit, which seems to be of about the time of Henry VIII. and is an excellent specimen of late mediæval woodwork.

The quaint old pews under the west gallery are sound work of the seventeenth century, and show that the taste for wood-carving and the wish to adorn churches with it did not in this neighbourhood die out at the Reformation.

The report which the Society forwarded to the Patron is now being considered by him, and the Committee sincerely trusts that the recommendations contained in it will be adopted.

North Stoke Church, Oxon.

At the request of the authorities the Secretary visited and reported upon this building, which is one of great beauty and interest.

The church consists of nave, chancel, western tower and north porch.

The nave, tower and porch are of pure "Decorated" work, but the tower above the level of the nave has been rebuilt in brick.

The chancel is of "Early English" work, including the chancel arch.

Among the fittings of the church there is an exceptionally fine Jacobean Communion table and a valuable old domestic chair.

The chancel was restored some forty or fifty years ago.

The whole of the nave appears to have had its walls covered with paintings, which appear to be contemporary with that part of the church. The drawing of the figures is exceptionally good and the colour very beautiful, but the paintings are hidden by coats of whitewash.

It may be that the chancel was painted at the same time, but when it was restored the walls were replastered, so that this page of the history of the building has gone.

The custodians of the building decided to carry out the works recommended by the Society and they are now in progress, under the personal direction of Mr. Weir, on the spot, in consultation with the Society.

We hope to give a full description of the works next year.

Saintbury Church, near Broadway, Gloucestershire.

This building stands very beautifully crowning the village street, and is backed by the fine hill which separates Saintbury from Broadway.

The Rector asked the Society for financial aid to repair the church, but this could not be given without the building being surveyed on our behalf. This was done by a professional correspondent, and he reported that the works proposed, so far as they concerned the repair and preservation of the building, were most conservative.

Accordingly, the Society informed the Rector that it would place £5 of its Building Fund aside, to be handed over at the completion of the works, in the event of nothing being done to the building which was contrary to the principles of the Society.

Later, we were informed by the Rector that the work was completed as far as they could do it at present. Our correspondent again visited the building, and he reported that the exterior of the church had not been altered in any way, and it was next to impossible to trace the repairs to the tower and spire from the exterior. The only alteration to the interior of the church was that one of the transepts is now used as a chapel, the wooden floor having been removed and one of stone provided. There was no new glass, and no new fittings beyond a stone altar and reredos.

The Society therefore handed the £5 over to the Rector, who, in thanking us, said that when they dealt with the flat fifteenth century roof they would be thankful for any suggestions as to its treatment.

It will be seen in this case that the Building Fund has helped to strengthen the Society's hands by enabling us to give monetary help in carrying out a satisfactory scheme of repair.

Sandon Church, Staffordshire.

This church has recently been repaired under the personal direction, on the spot, of Mr. William Weir, in consultation with the Society, at the instance of the Earl of Harrowby.

The building consists of nave with south aisle, and a chapel on the north side, chancel, tower and vestry.

The earliest portion of the church is the south aisle, and this was probably the original building, which was built by one of the barons of Malbane, shortly after the Conquest, probably between 1100 and 1200. The nave and chancel appear to have been added about the year 1300, and at this date the earlier building seems to have been altered considerably, and windows of the later period were inserted in the Norman walls. The next addition appears to have been the north aisle, or chapel, and the tower, which were probably built about the year 1400. The tower is built into and upon the walls of the south aisle, at its south-west corner, and blocks up one of the earlier windows over the porch. The present battlements and pinnacles were erected in the year 1839.

On the east gable of the south aisle there is an inscription recording the fact that the building was repaired by Edward Trubshaw, in 1655. The west wall of the nave, which stood at this date in a line with the west wall of the south aisle, was pulled down and set back the distance of one bay of the nave, thus shortening the nave to three bays. The westernmost bay was then built up and a square headed window inserted, and a debased window was put into the west gable.

The building remained in this state until the year 1839, when, unfortunately, it fell into the restorer's hands. The west gable was pulled down and the nave lengthened, not to its original position, but some 6ft. eastwards of the old foundations, which are now visible. The westernmost bay of the arcade was opened up, the debased window being apparently inserted in the north wall of nave exactly opposite, and another, of four lights, inserted in the south wall of aisle at east end, where it now remains.

The internal wall surfaces were stuccoed to imitate masonry, and the arches of the nave arcade probably had the present sham moulding, with its terminal cast heads, stuck on in plaster of Paris. The roofs of the nave, and probably those of the chancel and aisle, were also constructed at this date, as well as the vestry adjoining the north chapel.

The seating was then removed, some of the old seats with carved panels, representing the *fleur de lys* of the Digby family, being incorporated at the chancel end.

Between 1839 and the time when the works recently completed were taken in hand, little if anything appears to have been done.

These works chiefly comprised the making good of roofs, the repairing of walls, the forming of a stone channel round the walls of the building at the ground level to carry the rain and surface water away from the building, and the cleaning and lime-washing of the interior.

The roofs have been thoroughly over-hauled, the tiling made sound, and the old pointing, which had perished, raked out and renewed. The lead gutter

between the nave and aisle roofs had perished owing to the lead having been laid on pitch-pine boarding, and has been replaced by a reconstructed gutter with the lead laid on deal boarding. It should be noted that the pitch-pine boarding had acted on the lead in a similar manner to that of oak boarding, the lead having been reduced in places to a powdery condition. The old lead was recast and used again.

In dealing with the chancel roof it was discovered that the flues from the vestry and the family pew in the chancel were carried up inside a stone coping which was built on the top of tiling on the north side of roof, to a stone chimney over the ridge at the junction of the nave and chancel roofs. The whole weight of the coping and chimney, which was several tons, was supported by the woodwork of the chancel roof, and in the event of the timber perishing would certainly have collapsed; and, in addition, the fireplace to the family pew being situated high up in the wall near the eaves, the flames must have come in contact with the tiling, and as there was only the tiling to protect the woodwork from the flames there was a very great danger from fire.

The chimney and stone coping have been removed, a new coping provided, and the tiling made good. A small stove with an iron flue pipe takes the place of the fireplace in the vestry.

The chancel roof is of deal without tie-beams, and there are signs of thrust on the walls. It was thought hardly necessary at the present time to put tie-beams, but we have reported that if any fresh movement appears, it will be necessary to insert tie-beams.

The roof of the tower has been strengthened and the tiling replaced, and new lead hips provided in place of the former tile hips, for which the roof was too flat. A permanent flagstaff, constructed so that it can be lowered at any time for repairs, has been provided, as well as a lightning conductor.

The ground round the outside of the building had accumulated several feet above the level of the floor of the church, and was causing the damp to soak into the walls. An open channel of stone has therefore been constructed at as low a level as possible, with catch pits and drain pipes to carry off the water at various points to a considerable distance from the building.

The eaves of the roof project well beyond the face of the wall, and as the iron eaves, gutters, and down-pipes were in a poor condition and quite inadequate to carry off the water during storm, it was thought better not to replace them, but to allow the water to fall into the stone channel.

The external walls of the building have been repointed throughout, and several old flues found in the walls filled in solid with concrete.

The flue to the present heating apparatus was found to be defective and has been made good, and the top portion of the chimney from it, which had perished, has been renewed.

The ivy on the west gable of the nave, the S.W. angle buttress of the tower, and around the belfry windows and parapet, has been removed. In the case of the buttress it was found to have displaced the large stones of the weathering on top, which had to be re-bedded. We have recommended that in future the ivy should be

cut back and not allowed to grow beyond its present extent.

Among other works carried out, the mullions and tracery of some of the windows have been repaired, the leaded lights of the windows have received attention, the two modern sash windows in the family pew in the chancel, being defective and out of character, were replaced with plain solid oak frames filled with leaded glass, and with two centre point casements fixed in them for ventilation.

The interior generally has been thoroughly overhauled, the plaster repaired, and the ceilings, which had been coloured to imitate oak boarding, have been thrice limewashed and finished a pure white, which helps to lighten the building considerably. The walls have been limewashed and finished a light stone colour.

The oak pulpit and pews were thickly covered with paint and varnish, which was removed by the application of soda and water without injuring the oak work, which is now left in its natural state.

The bells have been put into working order. The bell frame was wedged up against the walls of the tower, so that when the bells were rung the vibration of the frame shook the tower. These wedges have been removed and the frame made rigid with iron straps, and repaired where necessary, and the bells can now be rung without causing injury to the tower.

Selby Abbey Church Tower.

The present tower of Selby Abbey was erected after the fall of the old tower in 1690. It is now stated that the top part of the tower is defective and that the founda-

tions are not capable of carrying the weight of the whole tower. As a preliminary step the authorities, acting on the advice of their Architect, are removing the top portion of the tower.

We should have thought the better course would have been to strengthen the foundation and to repair the upper portion.

The following letter from the Society on this subject, which appeared in the *Yorkshire Herald* on the 28th of January, will be of interest to our members.

SELBY ABBEY CHURCH TOWER.

To the Editor of the "Yorkshire Herald."

SIR,

The attention of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has been called to the account of the public meeting which was reported in your issue of the 22nd inst.

The subject has often been before the public, but why the obvious course of repairing the tower as it stands has not been followed does not seem to be explained.

From the account of the meeting it may be gathered that there is a great desire to have a Norman tower. If such a thing could be had by paying for it the desire would be both reasonable and praiseworthy, but to suppose that a tower made in imitation of Norman is a Norman tower is obviously absurd, and people who believe that we can manufacture Norman work must either never have looked at the many attempts which have already been made in different parts of the country, or else they must be blind to the true value of Norman work.

The characteristics of such work are that each stone bears evidence of the individual craft of its worker, and where such stones are in good preservation it is fascinating to study the individual tooling; and again

where zig-zag ornament is used the stones will be found of different sizes and the ornament adapted to the size of each stone.

It is absolutely impossible for such work to be done now.

From the number of towers which were in a bad condition, and which have been thoroughly repaired without rebuilding, and at less cost than rebuilding, it seems more than probable that Selby Abbey Church Tower could be treated in a similar way, and we hope that liberal subscriptions will be given for such a purpose, and that no one will allow his money to be wasted in trying to reproduce Norman work, or indeed work in imitation of any other period.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THACKERAY TURNER,

Secretary.

24th January, 1902.

Stokesay Castle, Shropshire.

Stokesay Castle is so well-known that it is unnecessary to give a description of it. At the request of the owner, the Secretary visited the building on behalf of the Society, and advice was given on the spot, which we believe is being followed.

Sutton-on-Trent Church Tower, Notts.

The Society learnt that it was proposed to rebuild this tower, which is of early English date. It was informed by the Vicar, in reply to enquiries, that the tower must be attended to as soon as sufficient funds were raised to protect or rebuild it.

The Vicar added they would all prefer the protection of the tower rather than that it should be rebuilt, but

the Architect reported that the tower could only be repaired, with safety to those employed, at enormous expense.

The Committee offered the Vicar a report upon the building, and this was accepted. A member having considerable practical experience in the repair of ancient buildings made the survey, and he reported that the tower was in a bad state but that it could without great difficulty be repaired.

The walls of the lower portion, from the ground up to the belfry floor, are in a very bad condition.

However, there could be no doubt that the tower could be repaired and made thoroughly sound at a much less cost than if it were rebuilt, and we forwarded to the Vicar a copy of our member's report, in which he stated what would be required.

We are glad to be able to say that the Vicar has accepted the report, and the works will be carried out by our member, in consultation with the Society. We hope to refer more fully to this case in the next annual report.

Churches, Swaffham Prior, Cambs.

There are two churches at Swaffham Prior standing in the same churchyard, one dedicated to St. Mary, the other to SS. Cyriac and Julia.

With the exception of the chancel, which was restored in 1878, the church of St. Mary was in ruins. The sister church is, with the exception of the tower, modern.

It is proposed to complete the restoration of St. Mary's

Church and to remove the body of the church of SS. Cyriac and Julia, leaving the ancient tower standing.

The Society arranged for one of its professional members to visit Swaffham Prior, but owing to unforeseen circumstances there was some delay, and when another member made his visit the works to St. Mary's Church were in progress.

Before the commencement of the work the remains consisted of a "Perpendicular" nave arcade with the north clerestory wall, the north aisle wall and the east wall of the nave with its parapet. Of the tower, the lower part, which is of Norman work, and a portion of the upper part of Transitional work, existed, and, in addition, there were the remains of a fine fifteenth century porch.

At the time of our member's visit, the clerestory walls had been rebuilt, and a pitch-pine roof, supposed to be a copy of the original one, was in course of construction.

The north aisle, which retained its old wall, had been renovated, the old wall having been refaced with new stone and new windows added, similar to the old ones, which had been removed, and a pitch-pine roof with cast lead had been placed on this aisle.

It was proposed to deal with the south aisle in a similar manner.

The Society addressed a letter to the Vicar, in which it urged that the arches and piers of the nave arcade should not be treated in the same way as the one which had already been dealt with, where the lower portion of the pier had been wholly renewed and was consequently out of harmony with the original work.

We advised that only individual stones should be

renewed where absolutely necessary for strength, and that no attempt should be made to restore the old bases.

We fear, however, that the advice given will not be adopted.

With regard to the tower we sent the Vicar, at his request, a drawing showing how the Society would treat it.

We suggested that as far as possible the tower should be left in its present state, the walls being carefully pointed where necessary, and, where the masonry is broken away at the top, that it should be protected against the wet lying in the hollow parts by covering the upper surfaces of the stones with cement mortar, sloped so as to throw off the wet.

We also recommended that a roof should be constructed in oak, covered with cast lead, at a level shewn, the windows glazed with leaded lights of clear glass and the inside of the tower left in its present state.

We can only hope that the advice we have given with regard to the tower will be followed.

The proposal to remove the body of the sister church seems to be one requiring most careful consideration, for although it is modern and quite valueless, it is doubtful whether its removal might not affect the stability of the interesting ancient tower.

Ancient House, Mill Street, Warwick.

The Society was informed that it was proposed to alter or demolish this building, and we approached the owner, the Earl of Warwick, upon the subject and he very kindly gave his consent to the building being

surveyed on behalf of the Society. This was done, and a report sent to his Lordship.

The building takes the most important place in the group of ancient houses which form the unique Mill Street which leads to the castle. It is probable that the house was originally built in the fifteenth century, as the entrance doorway—a two-centred doorway in oak with traceried spandrels—appears to be of that date. The interior has late fittings, all very good of their kind.

Fortunately the original house is of timber construction and therefore there will be no special difficulty in putting it in a state of repair so as to make it fit for use. It has not been inhabited for many years.

The end of the house next the castle is built of brick and is of later date, but is nevertheless historically valuable.

In the report we explained fully what was necessary to place the building into structural repair and we offered to look over any proposals for dealing with the building.

We are pleased to be able to report that Lord Warwick has decided to preserve the building and his agent has promised that the Society shall be allowed to see the scheme for doing so when it has been prepared,

Wilby Church, Norfolk.

This church was surveyed by the Secretary at the request of Sir Hugh Beevor, Bart., in 1900, and a report made to him by the Committee. He approved of the Society's suggestion that the recommendations contained in the report should be carried out by Mr. William

Weir, and he very liberally gave all the oak timber required for the work from his estate.

Prince Frederick Duleep Singh gave a most successful bazaar at Old Buckenham, which materially augmented the funds.

The works of repair are now completed with the exception of the chancel which is the property of the Rector.

The building is of particular interest and contains work of every period, in fact it is one of those churches which are so valuable to the student of history. An important piece of the history of the building is written, as it were, in the edifice itself. It is recorded by Blomfield that in the year 1633 the church was much damaged by fire, but had we no documentary evidence of this, we should know such to be the case from the fact that the effects of the fire are still visible on the old plaster, inside walls, and the flintwork on the outside, as well as the masonry of the windows.

The following notes of the works will prove of interest.

On examination it was found that the foundation of the north wall was only 12in. below the level of the churchyard and 3in. above the floor of the church. This wall contained several cracks, and a modern brick buttress which existed close to the west end had parted from the face of the wall, leaving a space from the top to nearly the ground line. This buttress merely rested on soft sand and had no bond into the wall.

To obtain a good foundation for a new buttress it was necessary to go down 5ft. below the ground, and an enlarged buttress, faced with the old bricks as far as possible, has been erected to take the place of the use-

less one. The cracks in the walls were repaired in a substantial manner.

There was a large crack at the north-west angle where the north wall had parted from the west wall, and this has been well bonded, after removing a portion of the filling-in, with large bonding stones well tailed into both walls, as well as into the buttress at the angle. Other cracks of a like nature were dealt with in a similar way.

Two three-light fifteenth century windows on the south side were found to be in a very bad state. As the mullions of one of these windows were found to be split and very much broken, it was necessary that they should be renewed, but in the case of the other window it was only necessary to renew one of the mullions. The tracery was retained after being joggled together.

The leaded glazing was very much twisted, and this has been carefully repaired. The glass is beautiful old glass of a greenish tint, and had very little new inserted.

New saddle-bars have been placed on the inside of the glass, and the old stanchion and guard bars replaced on the outside.

A built-up piscina was discovered under one of the windows, the head being of clunch pierced with tracery.

In the thickness of the north wall at the north-east angle the remains of a staircase leading to a recess high up on the inside of the chancel arch were discovered, but it was absolutely necessary for the stability of the building that this should be strengthened. However, care has been taken to leave indications of its existence.

The roof of the nave has been thoroughly repaired, an additional tie-beam being provided, and the tiles re-hung.

The old stove has been repaired and fixed in the north west corner of the nave. Other minor repairs have been carried out.

There was some question of placing an open drain round the building, but in this case the Committee came to the conclusion that it was not essential.

Surface drains, although in many cases necessary to protect ancient buildings from dampness, are at the best rather unsightly. Therefore it is well to avoid them unless they are really necessary.

Withycombe Church, Somerset.

At the request of the Rector, the Society surveyed this building, the chief point being the condition of the tower.

The tower appears to have been built in the thirteenth century, and is contemporary with the nave and chancel. It was found that the tower was in urgent need of repair. It has a timber roof covered with cast lead in a fair state of repair, but the old oak beams which support the roof have perished at the ends where built into the walls.

There is a peal of four large bells, the tenor weighing about fifteen hundredweight and being dated 1742. The bell frame is very badly constructed, and has wedges driven in between it and the walls.

The vibration of the frame has caused serious damage to the walls, and there are many cracks which will require careful treatment.

We have sent a report to the Rector fully explaining the method of repair recommended by the Society and

he has informed us that he is in sympathy with it. We are now in communication with him as to the best course to follow in carrying out the works.

Wymondham Church, Norfolk.

This well-known building is now in the hands of the restorers.

A lady promised to contribute £10,000 towards the cost of the restoration, but this large sum will cover little more than half of the estimated cost of the proposed works.

The church has two towers, one at the east end, the other at the west, but the last named was never fully completed. The architect's scheme proposed that parapets and pinnacles should be placed on the western tower founded upon those existing on a tower in the neighbourhood.

However, owing to the energetic action of our member, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, the proposal was abandoned. His Highness, in writing to the Chancellor, pointed out that one of the most striking characteristics of mediæval architecture is that you never find two buildings exactly alike, and therefore if the new top to the tower was made in imitation of another, it would be, on the face of it, condemned. He also urged that such a conjectural addition would cast doubt on the authenticity of the whole tower, and suggested that a more reasonable course to pursue would be to finish the top of the tower in the simplest and most direct way, and in such a manner as to show that it is not part of the original design.

The Society addressed a telegram to the Chancellor

in support of the views set forth by the Prince, and although the Chancellor granted the faculty, at a later stage the Vicar withdrew this portion of the scheme.

We understand that the lady who contributed the large sum already named objected to the proposed restoration of the tower.

We feel sure our members will be grateful to Prince Frederick Duleep Singh for his public-spirited action in the matter.

York Minster and Gateway, College Street, York.

For many generations there has been a narrow road which passes under a sort of archway leading into the Minster Close, runs thence close to the south side of the Minster, and debouches near the west door into the open street. During the last twenty years there has never been much traffic, as York was a country town, but latterly the traffic has increased considerably; consequently the Corporation proposed to pull down the archway, which is a mediæval half-timber building, and widen the road. This would have resulted in heavy traffic being brought into close proximity to the Minster, and as the Committee considered this might possibly endanger the safety of the building, it arranged for one of its professional members to visit York on behalf of the Society.

This resulted in the Society sending the following letter to the Corporation of York.

To the Town Clerk of York.

SIR,

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has been informed that the Lord Mayor and Corporation of York have for a considerable time past

had under consideration a scheme for improving the thoroughfares of the city in the immediate vicinity of the Minster.

The question has seemed to the Society to be one of such great importance that it deputed one of its professional members to visit York and report to it upon the subject.

Now that his report has been considered the Committee feels it would not be doing its duty if it did not request that the Corporation of York will take into consideration the serious question of the almost certain damage caused by vibration if heavy traffic is permitted to approach the Minster.

There can be no doubt as to the harm caused by vibration to an ancient building. So far back as the time when St. Paul's Cathedral was erected this was understood, and Sir Christopher Wren, one of our greatest authorities on construction, wrote most strongly on the subject.

Under these circumstances the Committee feels justified in urging the importance of the question, and in expressing a hope that whatever scheme may be advocated it should keep in view the general principle that no heavy traffic ought to pass within forty feet of the Minster, which, as we feel sure you will agree, is a priceless work of art.

In view of the public interest of the subject of this letter I have been directed to send a copy to the Press for publication.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) THACKERAY TURNER,
Secretary.

10, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.

27th July, 1901.

We understand, however, that the Corporation were obdurate, and had actually commenced to destroy the half-timber buildings to the south of the Gateway, when Mr. Frank Green offered to make good the sums expended

upon the purchase of the Gateway, and to put it into a state of repair, provided the Corporation devised some other route for the new street.

We are glad to be able to report that the Corporation accepted this offer, and the new street will be made a little to the south. This will result in the archway being saved, and the traffic being kept away from the eastern front of the Minster, but the traffic will, unfortunately, have to pass close to the south transept.

Although it is a matter of congratulation to the Society that the ancient Gateway is to be preserved, we must own to a feeling of uneasiness when we think that this result has only been attained through the munificence of a private citizen. We should have been more gratified if the Corporation had decided to retain the Gateway because of its historical and architectural value, as it would have shewn that the Corporation fully appreciated and made every effort to preserve the ancient buildings which give to York much of the charm it now possesses.

St. William's College, York.

St. William's College, York, was founded towards the end of the fifteenth century, altered during Jacobean and other periods, and was, when recently visited on behalf of the Society, divided up into several tenements.

The property was a short time ago bought with a view to its preservation by Mr. Frank Green of York, who offered it to the Convocation of York for the same price he gave for it.

Sketch plans had been printed of the ground and first floors showing how it was proposed to convert the

building into a house for the Convocation of York. These plans gave no indication of the treatment intended for the outside work, but they implied very considerable alteration to the interior.

The Society forwarded a letter to Mr. Frank Green pointing out the proposals which seemed to be objectionable, but at the same time it was stated that it was difficult to judge from sketch plans, and therefore some of the Society's inferences might probably be mistaken.

In reply we received a courteous letter from Mr. Green, and he assured us that, as he purchased the building solely in order to preserve it, if the works which the Society feared were carried out, the very object for which he purchased the building would be defeated.

Mr. Green also replied fully to our criticisms, and we are of opinion that his intentions are that the building shall be treated in a thoroughly conservative manner, and we trust his efforts will be successful; but we cannot refrain from saying that success will largely depend upon the *spirit* in which those who have the actual repair and adaptation of the building proceed with their work.

Mr. Green has kindly invited the Society, when the works are about to commence, to visit and see exactly what is proposed.

FOREIGN WORK.

Otto-Heinrichs-Bau, Heidelberg Castle.

The attention of the Society was called to a contemplated restoration of the Otto-Heinrichs-Bau, the most important part of the Castle of Heidelberg. It was proposed to restore the frontage, re-erect missing parts

of the walls, put a new roof on, and to decorate all the rooms of the interior in the manner in which they were supposed to have been originally treated.

As the Castle of Heidelberg is a building of universally recognised value, it was thought that the Society might with propriety venture respectfully to address His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Baden upon the subject.

In doing so, we explained that the Society originated as far back as 1877, and that its object has been to urge the custodians of buildings to keep them in constant repair and to dissuade Architects from making new work in imitation of the old work, which, it has pointed out, does not conform to the requirements of a work of art, and is now generally recognised as being devoid of art.

Futhermore, we stated, that the Society has shewn that new work made in imitation of old, to replace missing portions of an ancient building, is misleading to the student, and mischievous from an historical point of view. Also, so long as Architects rest satisfied with copying, the art of building will degenerate.

In conclusion the Society begged it might be forgiven for briefly stating these views as an apology for urging that any scheme for further restoring Heidelberg Castle would be discouraged by His Royal Highness.

It is with great pleasure we have to report that we learn the government of the Grand Duchy has, for the time, abandoned the project to restore the building. The sum required for carrying out the works has been withdrawn from the estimates before the Diet.

We understand the general interest taken in the Castle, and the strong feeling against its restoration, has

so increased, that should the idea be brought to the forefront at a future time, the protests against such a course would be overwhelming.

We may add we have been informed that the Society's action had special weight in influencing the authorities.

St. Mark's, Venice.

The Committee has received the following letter from a correspondent, whom it considers well qualified to give an opinion upon the subject of the mosaics of St. Mark's at Venice.

April 30th, 1902.

"What is really being done to the mosaics of the interior of the vaulting of St. Mark's at Venice? I have been there in the course of the past year, and I have come back feeling sadly, that, though that wonderful church will always look wonderful as to broad effects, its mosaic pictures are fast becoming as little like what they should be, as a machine-made copy of a fine old Persian carpet would be like the original.

"Where the scaffoldings and the workmen have passed by, the gold field is hard and glittering, the figures wooden, the faces as expressionless as dolls, the colours just not right—untuned and unsympathetic.

"I was told by the sacristans that the whole mosaic vaulting is to undergo this destructive process of restoration. From below one cannot see that there is any need to do anything at all. It all looks in perfectly good condition.

"Where they have not yet meddled, instead of the mosaics just missing the beauty we desire, they possess it, and the gold has quite a different surface and a glorious ruddy glow, and 'keeps its place' in the decorative scheme.

"The difference in the faces shows for certain that what is happening is not just cleaning and a necessary refixing of loose pieces. I felt convinced that every

tessera is at least taken out and reset (I fear often not reset). In the untouched mosaics the rows of tesserae are used as lines of drawing; even at a great distance this can be felt. They are set in tender and gracious or grand lines, in the draperies especially. But this beauty is lost in the restored mosaics. The gold tesserae of the background in its original condition group themselves into such lines in the vicinity of the figures, skilfully and subtly following their outlines with great enhancement of the beauty, both of background and figures, which are thus linked and harmonised. This again in the restored mosaics is omitted or badly done.

"Another generation will, I fear, have scarcely any opportunity of judging of Venetian mosaic work as being other than crude and barbarous, but at present enough is left unspoiled to show us how very far removed from these negations it may be, especially in the apse of the church at Torcello, where we see in the grand presentment of the sorrowing Madonna and Apostles one of the most marvellous renderings of grief the world has seen, made more grand by the breadth and simplicity of colour and form which the material both permits and exacts.

"It is almost wholly made up of gradations of blue and of white—the colours of sky and ocean and the gold setting, the most abstract, ideal and glorious setting which exists.

"But this is untouched. Opposite, at the other end of the church, the mosaics are, if I remember right, restored, giving an object lesson on the spot against meddling.

"Who is to blame? I do not believe the Italians want to spoil their marvellous treasures. Is some one short-sighted, who should not be? The vaulting is lofty.

"Just a few words about the pavement. I had heard so much about its being uneven, waved, like the sea: and of the barbarism of making it level.

"I don't believe that Opus Alexandrinum was ever laid in this uneven way, and the ground must have sunk. But the beauty of the pavement, which beauty

the restoration ruins, is not caused by this extreme unevenness, but by the ordinary slight irregularity found in all handwork, both in the shaping of the pieces of marble and in their setting, and also—this is important—by their being set with the cement showing between them like mortar between bricks or lead between glass. The newly laid pavement is mechanically flat and the bits of marble absolutely edge to edge with no cement showing. It stands to reason that the old tesserae cannot often be big enough, and one fears most must be new.

“An artist I am acquainted with, who has painted a good deal in St. Mark’s, says he has seen quantities of the old marble carted away as rubbish.

“Whatever is the explanation of the charm of the old pavement, it appeals to everyone. St. Mark’s would hardly be St. Mark’s if it were all relaid.”

The following is a list of Buildings which have come before the Society during the year :—

- Abbots Langley Church, Herts.
 Alberbury Church, Shropshire.
 Amesbury Church, Wilts.
 Anwick Church, Lincs.
 Ashton-under-Hill Church, Gloucestershire.
 Astley Church, Worcestershire.
 Athens, Erechtheion.
 Barton Mills Church, Suffolk.
 Basingwerk Abbey, Flints.
 Battle Abbey, Sussex.
 Beaumaris Church, Anglesey.
 Belchalwell Church, Dorset.
 Bibury, Gloucestershire, Alms-house.
 Binham Abbey Church, Norfolk.
 Blackmore Church, Essex.
 Black Torrington Church, Devonshire.
 Blythburgh Church, Suffolk.
 Bologna and Genoa, Walls of
 Bourne, Lincs., Old Red Hall
 Bristol, St. Michael's Church Tower.
 Bristol, St. Peter's Church.
 Bristol, St. Peter's Hospital.
 Brixham, Devon, St. Mary's Church.
 Broxbourne Church Tower, Herts.
 Burton Agnes Church, Yorks.
 Cadeleigh Church, Devonshire, Monument in
 Camber Castle, Sussex.
 Carisbrooke Castle Chapel, Isle of Wight.
 Cassington Church, Oxon.
 Caundle Stourton Church, Dorset.
 Chatteris Church, Cambs.
 Chester, Water Tower and Walls.
 Chevening Church, Kent.
 Chichester Cathedral, Sussex.
 Chichester, Sussex, The City Cross.
 Chipping Warden Church, Northants.
 Claverley Church, Shropshire.
 Cobham Church, Kent.
 Compton Martin Church, Somerset.
 Conway Castle, Carnarvonshire.
 Corhampton Church, Hants.
 Coventry, Warwickshire, St. Mary's Hall.
 Coventry, Warwickshire, Holy Trinity Church.
 Cranworth Church, Lincs.
 Cray, Kent, St. Paul's Church.
 Croft Church, Herefordshire.
 Croydon, Surrey, Whitgift Hospital.
 Cyprus Antiquities.
 Dartmouth, Devonshire, Galleries, St. Saviour's Church.
 Dean, near Salisbury, Wilts., Roman Pavement removed from
 Dorchester, Dorset, St. Peter's Church.
 Dublin, Kilmainham Hospital, Chapel Ceiling.
 Duddingstone Church, N.B.
 Eashing Bridge, Surrey.
 East Bridgford Church, Notts.
 East Hendred, Berks., Ancient Chapel.
 East Kirkby Church, Lincs.
 Elkesley Church, Notts.
 Eglwys Brewis Church, Glamorganshire.
 Eglwys Cummin Church, Carmarthenshire.
 Eltham Palace, Kent.
 Eltham, Kent, Ancient House, near Well Hall Farm.
 Evesham, Worcestershire, Ancient Houses.

- Evesham, Worcestershire, Vicarage Court.
 Exeter, Devonshire, Cathedral Bells.
 Exeter, Devonshire, College Hall, College of Vicars.
 Exeter, Devonshire, The Guildhall.
 Fawsley Church, Northants.
 Flamstead Church, Herts.
 Fotheringhay Church, Northants.
 Frenze Church, Norfolk.
 Garveston Church, Norfolk.
 Glaisdale, near Whitby, Yorks., The Beggars' Bridge.
 Gnosall Church, Staffs.
 Godalming, Surrey, Ancient House.
 Godalming, Surrey, The Market Hall.
 Great Coxwell Church, Oxon.
 Great Yarmouth, The Town Wall.
 Greenhalgh Castle, near Garstang, Lancs.
 Greetham Church, Lincs.
 Guildford Bridge, Surrey.
 Guiting Church, Gloucestershire.
 Hales Owen Church, Worcestershire.
 Hambledon, near Henley-on-Thames, Bucks., Mausoleum at
 Hartland Church, Devonshire.
 Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire.
 Hatfield Church, Herefordshire.
 Hawkshead, near Coniston, the "Flags."
 Heidelberg Castle, Otto Heinrich's Bau.
 Hemblington Church, Norfolk.
 Hesse Church, Yorks.
 Hitchin, Herts., St. Mary's Church.
 Hollingbourne Church, Kent.
 Hoo, All Hallows' Church, Kent.
 Ickham Church, Kent.
 Icklingham Church, Suffolk.
 Inglesham Church, Wilts.
 Iona Cathedral, N.B.
 Jacobstowe Church, Devonshire.
 Kenchester Church, Herefordshire
 Kennardington Church, Kent.
 King's Cople Church, Herefordshire.
 Kirkwall, Orkney, St. Magnus Cathedral.
 Knighton-on-Teme Church, Worcestershire.
 Landulph Church, Cornwall.
 Langtoft Church, Yorks.
 Launceston Castle, Cornwall.
 Lechlade, Gloucestershire, Old Swan Inn.
 Leicester, Huntingdon Tower, High Street.
 Leicester, St. Mary's Church.
 Lincoln, Ancient Houses.
 Linlithgow, N.B., St. Michael's Church.
 Little Bookham Church, Surrey.
 Little Marlow Church, Bucks.
 Little Oakley Church, Essex.
 Little Washbourne Church, Worcestershire.
 Little Wenham Church, Suffolk.
 Liverpool, The Blue Coat School.
 Liverpool, St. Peter's Church.
 Liverpool, The Old Town Hall.
 Llandurge Church, Merionethshire.
 Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr Church, Denbighs and Merioneths.
 Llangelynin Chapel, Merionethshire.
 Llanrwst Market Hall, Carnarvonshire.
 London, Christ's Hospital.
 London, Church of St. Andrew Undershaft, Monument in
 London, Deptford, St. Nicholas' Church Tower.
 London, 118, Drury Lane, Tablet.
 London, Fulham, Sandford Manor House.
 London, Hampstead, Houses, The Grove and Well Walk.
 London, Islington, St. Mary's Church, Upper Street.
 London, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Houses West Side of
 London, The Temple Church, E.C.
 London, Westminster Abbey.
 London, Westminster, Houses, Smith Square.

- London, Whitehall, Admiralty Buildings.
 Lydbury North Church, Shropshire.
 Lydiard Tregoz Church, Wilts.
 Lymminster Church, Sussex.
 Lyng Church, Somerset.
 Maidstone, Kent, Gate House, etc., Mill Street.
 Malvern Priory Church, Worcestershire.
 Manningtree Church, Essex.
 Mark Church, Somerset.
 Marston Magna Church, Somerset.
 Mattishall Church Tower, Norfolk.
 Moulton Church, Norfolk, Frescoes in
 North Stoke Church, Oxon.
 Newbury, Berks., The Cloth Hall.
 Northleach Church, Gloucestershire.
 Old Buckenham Church Tower, Norfolk.
 Onibury Church, Shropshire.
 Ottoman Antiquities.
 Overton Church, Lancs.
 Oxford, Ancient Buildings at Oxford, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
 Oxford, The Tom Gate, Christchurch.
 Palling Church, Norfolk.
 Penn Church, Bucks.
 Peterborough Cathedral Bells.
 Pocklington Church, Yorks.
 Portsmouth Parish Church, Hants.
 Roche Castle, Pembrokeshire.
 Rotherham, Yorks., Chapel on the Bridge.
 Rottingdean Church, Sussex.
 Ruabon Church, Denbighshire.
 Rumboldswyke Church, Sussex.
 St. Andrew's, N.B., The Town Church.
 St. Columb Major Church, Cornwall.
 Saintbury Church, Gloucestershire.
 St. Just in Roseland Church, Cornwall.
 Sandon Church, Staffs.
 Seaford Church, Sussex.
 Selby Abbey Church, Yorks.
 Send Church, Surrey.
 Shefford Church, Beds.
 Shere Church, Surrey.
 South Muskham Church, Notts.
 Stanway Church, Gloucestershire.
 Stoke Damarel Church, Devonshire.
 Stokesay Castle, Shropshire.
 Stonehenge.
 Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, The Almshouses.
 Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, The Guild Chapel.
 Stratford-upon-Avon, Church, Warwickshire.
 Sutton-on-Trent Church, Notts.
 Swaffham Prior Churches, Cambs.
 Tewin Church, Herts.
 Tewkesbury Abbey Church, Gloucestershire.
 Thaxted Church, Essex.
 Ticehurst Church, Sussex.
 Tremaine Church, Cornwall.
 Venice, St. Mark's.
 Wakefield Bridge and Chapel, Yorks.
 Walberswick Church, Suffolk.
 Warwick, Ancient House, Mill Street.
 Watford, Herts., Ancient Houses.
 Wembworthy Church, Devonshire.
 West Dereham Church, Norfolk.
 Weston-on-Avon Church, Gloucestershire.
 Whitby Abbey, Yorks.
 Wilby Church, Norfolk.
 Winchelsea Church, Sussex.
 Withycombe Church, Somerset.
 Wortham Church, Suffolk.
 Wymondham Church, Norfolk.
 Yatton Church, Somerset.
 York Castle, Clifford's Tower.
 York, Micklegate, Holy Trinity Church.
 York Minster.
 York, College Street, Gateway to York, St. William's College.

REPORT OF GENERAL MEETING.

THE General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, June 11th, 1902, in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, W., by the kind permission of that Society.

The chair was taken by Lord Balcarres, M.P.

The Chairman moved that the report be taken as read and adopted. His Lordship called attention to the existence of the new fund which the Society had started, called "The Building Fund," and said he felt sure that there were many people who wished to further schemes for the repair of ancient buildings, who would gladly avail themselves of the Society's help by subscribing towards this fund, as they would then know that their money was spent only in a right way. He further said that he knew, from personal experience, the excellent work which the Society was doing, and urged that every member should, if possible, obtain a new member, for if the Society's list of members could be increased, the usefulness of the Society would be largely increased.

Miss May Morris, in seconding the proposal, referred to the early history of the Society, and urged that the suggestion made by Lord Balcarres should be taken to heart, as the Society could not be expected to do its full duty without being supported by a large number of subscribers.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Professor W. R. Lethaby then read the following paper, which was illustrated by lantern slides kindly lent by Messrs. Bolas and Co., of Oxford Street.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND ITS RESTORATIONS.

The common habit is to think of the noble Church of St. Peter as the Abbey, although, of course, it was only part of a great assemblage of buildings comprised in one of the most complete of the English religious houses. The habit, indeed, is a natural one, for the church was always the leading building of the organic group which formed a monastery, and now that the other structures which were gathered about it are broken and disguised, it is difficult to bring to the mind any imagination of what it was when complete.

By the general consent of those who have given the Abbey special study, it was second to none in the serene exquisiteness of its beauty, and from its associations it should stand to English hearts as the supreme work of Art in the world. Its unique position in our history came to Westminster by the fact that at an early time the Kings were drawn to live there, and the King's house was built as almost a dependency of the Abbey. That the palace came to the Abbey is made evident in the very name of Westminster, for had it been the other way about, we might have expected such a name as King's borough, or Kingston, or a survival of the old Thorney rather than the name West-Monastery.

An almost exactly similar thing happened at Holyrood,

at once a great Abbey and a King's Palace. So far as I can gather, probably it was Cnut who first made Westminster his residence ; his successor, Harold I., was the first of the English Kings to be buried there. Later the proximity of the Palace reacted to some extent on the Abbey, and the Church became in a manner the great royal chapel attached to the Palace, much as St. Mark's is related to the Doge's Palace, and the Dom at Aachen is to the Palace of Charlemagne. Both the rebuildings of the Abbey in the time of the Confessor and of Henry III. were specifically royal works paid for out of the King's purse.

From the time of the Confessor to the time of Henry VIII. we may think of Westminster as a romantic town, half palace, half monastery. It was seated where the Tyburn flowed into the Thames, and was protected by a wall and ditch, the Langditch, the name of which long survived as a street name. Round it were orchards, vineyards and tillage, and the beautiful park lands of the Manor of Hyde. Even in the last century drawings of Cox and De Wint show the Church rising beyond the corn fields of Pimlico.

Westminster Hall, the great Hall of the Palace, represents (as the church represents the monastery) the great group of royal buildings which once was gathered around it. These Palace buildings may be sub-divided into at least four groups: 1, the public Palace and Justice Hall; 2, the King's lodgings, with its Painted Chamber covered all over with the work of some English Giotto; 3, St. Stephen's, the Palace Chapel (the Westminster parallel of St. Louis' Sainte Chapelle in Paris), with its attached cloisters and vicars' houses; 4, the Exchequer

Buildings, and Court of Star Chamber. All these buildings, with their gardens, were tightly packed within a walled enclosure on the river bank, entered by turreted gates; the fore-court is to-day represented by New Palace Yard, in it rose an isolated campanile, the clock-tower of the Palace, before which stood a fountain which ran with red wine on occasions of rejoicing.

The other, or greater, half-Westminster, the Abbey, was also protected within its close, which was entered by such gate-houses as remain at Canterbury, Gloucester and Wells. The whole precinct enjoyed important privileges of Sanctuary. On the north, or near side of the Church, was the cemetery, and the Parish Church of St. Margaret, which itself goes back to the days of the Confessor, and served the dependent dwellings which sprang up around the Palace and the Abbey. In this northern quarter of the precinct or Sanctuary, rose a great belfry tower, the immense substructure of which has been much mythologised over as being in a special sense the Sanctuary of Westminster. The truth as to this is that the right of sanctuary more especially attached to the Shrine of the Confessor, then to the Altar and Church, the porch and the monastic buildings, and lastly to the whole precinct in which the great bell-tower stood. Some of this precinct was built over with dwellings: a bigger row is represented to-day by Broad Sanctuary, while Little Sanctuary was a smaller court which lay near the tower, with which it was only accidentally associated, deriving its name from the monastic close and not at all from the belfry. The Monastery proper lay on the far, or south side of the Church, where so much remains that the general disposition of

the buildings can be traced with certain precision. This more withdrawn part was protected by a gate-tower, which stood where is now the entrance to Dean's Yard, once called the Elms, the barnyard of the Monastery. Here stood the granges, stables, and all the appurtenances of a big manorial establishment. The present long range of buildings on the side of the square represents the cellarer's offices and other administrative buildings; at the far end against College Street, where flowed a stream outside the precinct wall, was the Abbey-mill, which seems to have given its name to Millbank.

The old entrance from the Elms to the Cloister still remains under a restored gate tower; in niches above it were sculptures of the Confessor giving his ring to St. John in the guise of a pilgrim, the favourite Westminster legend. To the left is the Abbot's (now the Dean's) house, with its Hall, Jerusalem Chamber and Jericho Parlour. Then we reach the south-west angle of the Cloister. The Cloister was far more in monastic economy than a passage way: it seems to be derived from the arcaded courts of Roman houses and, in a way, is the typical feature of monastic life, as appears in the double sense of the name "the cloister." Much of the common life of the monastery was lived here; here the monks taught school and occupied themselves with study and their lighter tasks.

Along the side opposite to the Church ran a magnificent hall, the Frater or Refectory, which was covered with a fine timber roof in eleven bays. Beyond it to the south was the great kitchen and other offices. Entered from the east walk of the cloister is the Chapter

House, a splendid octagonal building, the vaulting of which rises from a single central stem. Here are two lovely full-sized sculptured figures of the Virgin and the Announcing Angel. The floor is of the most perfect thirteenth century tile-work, figured with heraldry and patterns. Above the entrance to the Chapter House on the first floor is the Dormitory, now Westminster School, a long, stately room under an open roof, containing a doorway of William Rufus and windows of Edward I. The remainder of the lower floor under the Dormitory contains the Chapel of the Pyx and other vaults. One end of the Dormitory abuts against the Church, to which a stair in the transept gave access; at the other end it runs a good distance beyond the Refectory, and near this end a passage beneath it leads to the Infirmary Cloister, with its Chapel and lodgings, a more withdrawn monastery within a monastery, for the sick and infirm. This little cloister has been rebuilt, but all around it still remain dwellings like pleasant almshouses. In the east wall is the fine door of St. Catherine's, the Infirmary Chapel, beyond which are several remnants of its walls and pillars of Norman date. These buildings back against Old Palace Yard.

From the great cloister we enter the Church, which ranks with the greater cathedrals in size and is higher than any other in England. The effect is of wonderful springing strength, freshness and sweetness, indeed, it is a miracle of beauty. The tall pillars were all dark grey-green marble, and polished. The fairy tent of stone rises a hundred feet above us. In front of the entrance to the choir stood three nave altars, and above on the loft was another altar, called the "Jesus Altar

Above." Here also were the organs, modest tunable things entirely different from the great steam-driven machines we now employ to roar at us. Still higher stood the great Nave Rood on its beam. Beyond this point begins Henry III.'s work, of which the nave was a later continuation. This work of Henry III. it is which set the pattern of the whole interior, even of the details save the smallest. We may best date it by assigning it to the dozen years half on each side of the central year 1250. The choir follows the same line as the nave for some bays, then opens into the great transepts, two hundred feet from arm to arm. The choir had beautiful stall-work, which lasted long enough for it to be described by early books on the Abbey. It is exactly at the mid-point of the crossing under the "four great pillars of the choir," as the early books of ceremony say, that the stage for the coronation was set up for Edward I. and subsequent kings. This *pulpitum*, as it was called, had steps to it both facing the nave and the altar, and a canopy above it, and it is interesting to note that this part of the coronation scheme is derived from the imperial rite in Sta. Sophia, Constantinople; the *pulpitum* representing the great *ambo* which stood in the midst of that church, having eastern and western steps and a canopy. Possibly the Roman coronation of Charlemagne formed a link between the Eastern and Western rite; a relation there certainly was. The eastern limb of the Abbey Church from the crossing, is the Presbytery. Here, on the right, where the wonderful contemporary portrait of Richard II. now hangs, was situated the king's pew; beyond it is the carved and painted sedilia set up in 1307. The altar was of

enamelled silver ; the floor still preserves its mosaic of porphyry and marble laid down by a Roman mosaic-worker in 1268. The altar screen is still, on the further side, uninjured save by mouldering age. Opposite the sedilia stand three of the most romantic tombs in the world, being those of Edmund of Lancaster, of his wife Aveline, and of Aymer de Valence, all of early fourteenth century work. Their sculptured effigies lie under beautiful vaulted canopies, the whole being enriched with raised gesso patterns, gilded and painted and set off with inlays of coloured glass, once looking like big tabernacles of goldsmith's work and enamel.

Beyond the altar screen is the Confessor's Chapel, in the midst of which stands the marble and mosaic basement of his Shrine, which we know, from accounts, was of gold profusely set with jewels. On the left or north of this are situated three other remarkable tombs, that of Edward I., a plain chest of black marble ; that of Henry III., of mosaic with a gilt bronze effigy ; and that of Alienor of Castile, the gilt bronze effigy of which is the loveliest work in the lovely church. This statue was the work of William Torel, goldsmith, of London. On the right or south side of this royal chapel are the tombs of Richard II. and Edward III., both with bronze effigies, the former covered with a beautiful gilded and painted tester, and the latter decorated with enamelled shields of arms. A third tomb, that of Queen Philippa, is of white marble, which had inlays of bright blue glass. At the east end the chantry of Henry V. was erected above his tomb, with its effigy of enamelled silver, the wooden core of which alone remains. About the aisle which

surrounds the Confessor's Chapel stand four octagonal chapels forming what is called a *chevet*. In these are many other remarkable tombs, the most noteworthy being that of William de Valence, with its effigy of Limoges enamel, and the alabaster tomb of John of Eltham, son of Edward III. A longer chapel directly to the east, properly a Lady Chapel, is better known as the Chapel of Henry VII. This is a *tour-de-force* of fretted stone-work, and contains three beautiful bronze effigies by the Italian sculptor, Torrigiano, beside bronze screen-work, elaborate stalls and many other treasures.

This bare catalogue is far from exhausting the features of striking interest and beauty, but I want to make merely an index, as it were, which might serve for a *first* introductory visit to the treasures of the Abbey. Even so, I cannot forbear mentioning in addition the magnificent series of heraldic shields sculptured on the walls of the choir aisles about 1260, the fine sculptures high up in the south transept, the work most probably of Master John, of St. Alban's, the King's sculptor; the carved fillings of the wall arcade, especially in the aisle of the north transept; the coronation chair itself, the work of Master Walter, of Durham, the King's painter, about 1300; the early painting over the altar in the romaptic chapel of St. Faith at the end of the south transept, probably the work of Master William, of Westminster, Henry III.'s "beloved painter"; and the iron grille of Queen Alienor's tomb, the work of Master Thomas, of Leighton, the smith.

To pass for a moment to the history of the Abbey, the scores of hundreds of books which have been written on it have never cleared up its origin, the facts of

which are confused by many mythical claims made by the monks and incorporated in numerous early charters which have never been systematically investigated. The line of Abbots, however, can be verified by external sources from the end of the tenth century.

It is almost certain that the Abbey goes back to the time of St. Dunstan, and there is some probability that it may date from the time of King Offa.

Remnants of the Confessor's church have been found under the floor of the Presbytery ; from these and fragments of Norman work about the cloister, it has been shown that the church, in part completed by the Confessor, was nearly as large as the present one, the lines of the walls of which are governed by the old foundations. This is of especial interest as, although the Church is so English in its details, it is generally asserted that the plan or general scheme is a French one. A study of the way in which the new church of Henry III. was built over the older one, and fitted in between a Lady Chapel (which had been added on the east of the Confessor's church), the cloister on the south, and the nave on the west, shows conclusively that any Frenchness of type (except in the minor features of the ring of small chapels, which was probably new), came from the persistence of the old lines and dimensions. Any theory as to abstract proportions, which has also been urged in regard to the plan, likewise disappears. Its perfection is that of an imaginative subordination of new effort to the existing conditions. I should go back to say that the monastic buildings attached to the Confessor's church were carried on subsequently to the Conquest, and a "new work," which we are told was

begun by Henry II., was almost certainly the nave of the Church, which had not been completed before. The great work of Henry III. was begun in July, 1245. I have gone over some scores of yards of the original Fabric Rolls in order to find out in what manner and by whom the building was done. The funds were provided by the King himself, fortified by forced advances from the City, confiscations of Jews' property and the like. About two thousand pounds was advanced every year, the whole work of Henry III. costing about forty thousand pounds in the money of that time, which must be equal to at least a million of ours. William Haverhull and Edward of Westminster, officers of the Treasury, and the King's favourite men of affairs, represented the finance and accounts. The architecture, as we call it, "*The Work*," as they named it, was placed in the hands of the chief king's-mason of the time; the king's-mason being an official like the king's physician or baker, officers of the king's household maintained in unbroken succession. The first mason, or architect, appears to have been Master Henry, called "King's-mason and Master of the Works at Westminster," about two years after the beginning of the works.

About 1250 he was succeeded, as Master of the Works, by John of Gloucester, king's-mason, a very famous architect of the time. Another work of his still in existence, is the gateway of Guildford Castle. He was succeeded, in turn, about 1260, by Master Robert of Beverley, king's-mason, who conducted the works till the death of Henry III. in 1272, and became the favourite architect of Edward I., who engaged him on the great works at the Tower. Master Robert was much em-

ployed on the preparations for the coronation of Edward I. His accounts for these are still in existence. A great stable was built in St. Margaret's Churchyard, temporary halls were set up in the gardens of the Palace for the people to feast in, a wooden passage was built from the Palace to the Church, and, most interesting entry of all, we are told that the new tower above the choir was covered with boards, and a wooden floor was laid down in the choir, showing us both that the works in this part of the Church were not yet completed, and, what has been a much controverted point, that a central lantern tower was contemplated in the original scheme.

Henry III.'s work was slowly followed by a remodelling of the cloister and attached buildings during the fourteenth century, and by a new nave mainly in the fifteenth; while the old Lady Chapel was last of all rebuilt by Henry VII., and endowed, as the instrument runs, "for ever," only a generation before his son put an end to the old constitution of Westminster and confiscated its treasure.

I have left, and I am glad I have left, only a moment in which to speak of the violent destructions which followed, and the more insidious form of destruction still going on under the name of restoration, false in name as in fact.

The Shrine was first torn down and the plate removed, the bells were melted for cannon, some of the dependent buildings were assigned for Westminster School, and others, like St. Catherine's Chapel, the Belfry and the Refectory, were destroyed. Parallel with this destruction at the Abbey ran the gradual de-

cay and ruin of the Palace, which had been abandoned after a fire in 1512.

During the seventeenth century, the destruction went forward, but at a slower rate, and an innocently stupid repair of the exterior was undertaken, which resulted in the end in cutting back and recasing in dull hack work the whole exterior of the Church, so that hardly two old stones can now be found together. Perhaps the greatest loss of this time was the destruction of the great North Porch, which had been built by Richard II. projecting from the transept. The loss of the full-sized thirteenth century statues of the apostles and an infinity of smaller figures which adorned the North door and transept followed. In the eighteenth century Wren undertook what he intended to be a sympathetic repair of the North transept, "without fancies of his own" as he said in his report. It left much of the old romance still shining through the unbecoming veil. The completion of the West towers followed, they had not before been raised above the eaves of the roof. At about the same time the vault of the Chapter House was assisted to fall down, so that it might be converted into a boarded shanty for stacking parchments.

The first third of the nineteenth century seems to have been devoted to the destruction of the Palace buildings; the Painted Chamber, St. Stephen's Chapel and the Star Chamber all finally disappeared. Westminster Hall was renewed into inanity and Henry VII's chapel was entirely recased. Westminster gate towards Tothill Street and other precious buildings in Dean's Yard were destroyed.

Then came the age of Blore, Scott and Pearson.

Blore struck at the lovely early fourteenth century bays of the cloister and put new in their place, and gave the North front of the Nave another dressing.

Scott completed the renewal of the cloister, restored the South transept, and set up the Chapter House again.

Mr. Pearson did not like Wren's work at the North transept and felt called on to re-edit it into its present form.

At this moment similar "corrections" are going forward at the West front, and in the present year the South rose window, renewed less than a century ago has been cut out and redone once more. They began with new glass, but on the principle that it is best to do work thoroughly, stone and all has gone.

In coming to the end, I want to suggest to you how different it would have been with Westminster if instead of theory, learning and caprice, this energy in pulling down and setting up—if, instead of all this, there had been steadily carried on during the last century a system of patching, staying and repairs—a sort of building dentistry. Even yet if we could arrest the process of so-called improvement which is slowly creeping over the whole building in a sort of deadly paralysis, and substitute mere daily carefulness, much might be handed on for other ages.

These great national buildings, the Parthenon, St. Mark's, Rheims, and Westminster, are much more than works of art, they embody the souls of ancient peoples, who, whether better and wiser or not, were assuredly different from ourselves.

Mr. Somers Clarke, F.S.A., proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer and said it was astonishing how Englishmen travelled and saw the wonderful buildings of the world and yet how few knew their own Westminster Abbey, which was without doubt one of the finest buildings in the world.

He expressed the opinion that the Society had in recent years largely increased its influence, and recalled the time when he, in conjunction with Mr. William Morris, gave evidence before the Commission which was appointed to consider the new buildings at Westminster Hall, and how little respect was then shown to the Society's representatives, whereas, at a later date, he again was asked to give evidence on the subject of the proposal to erect a Campo Santo in connection with Westminster Abbey, when a most marked difference was to be noted in the reception which was accorded to the Society's evidence.

The proposal was seconded by the Hon. Gerald Ponsonby and agreed to.

Mr. Philip Norman, F.S.A., in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, mentioned the great help which his Lordship gave the Society from time to time, both in its deliberations and in the House of Commons, and expressed a wish that the Society could obtain still more personal help from men of ability. He said that he had just returned from staying in a suburb of Florence. He could not help feeling depressed by the contrast of the new work done in the Italian suburbs and the new work in English suburbs. In the Spring of the present year, he had had cause to visit Highgate, where he saw well-built old suburban houses

being cleared away to make room for red brick and purple slated suburban villas, a combination of colour which William Morris had described as the perfection of incongruity.

Mr. Nigel Bond seconded the proposal and expressed the opinion that the Society ought to be much more largely supported.

Lord Balcarres briefly replied, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Society of Antiquaries for the use of the room, which was proposed by Mr. E. Prioleau Warren.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1901.

Dr. Cr.

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance at the 31st December,		By Payments during the year 1901 :—	
1900, as per last statement	63 7 9	„ The Vicar of St. Edith's Church,	
„ Receipts during the year 1901 :—		Anwick, Lincs., for the Repair	
Donations	12 2 0	Fund	5 0 0
Amount received for the repair		„ On Account of Works at Eashing	
of Eashing Bridge	45 4 0	Bridge	20 0 0
	57 6 0	„ Balance at the London City and	25 0 0
		Midland Bank, 31st December,	
		1901	95 13 9
			<u>£120 13 9</u>

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct,

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Auditor.

23rd April 1902.

Dr.

EASHING BRIDGE

RECEIPTS.

				£	s.	d.
To Rev. Gerald Davies	-	-	-	2	12	6
„ "Ekroy" -	-	-	-	5	0	0
„ Mrs. Eline -	-	-	-	2	0	0
„ Miss Ewart -	-	-	-	1	0	0
„ Miss Forster -	-	-	-	10	0	
„ Mr. Lewis G. Fry -	-	-	-	1	1	0
„ Mr. G. Bruce Gosling -	-	-	-	2	0	0
„ Miss Jekyll -	-	-	-	2	0	0
„ Mr. T. M. Kitchin -	-	-	-	1	1	0
„ Mrs. Maillard -	-	-	-	1	0	0
„ Mr. H. A. Mangles -	-	-	-	1	0	0
„ Miss C. Mangles -	-	-	-	10	0	
„ Viscount Midleton -	-	-	-	5	0	0
„ Miss Theodora Powell -	-	-	-	5	0	0
„ Mrs. G. Bernard Shaw -	-	-	-	1	1	0
„ Mrs. Thackeray Turner -	-	-	-	17	16	7
„ Mr. R. W. Webb -	-	-	-	2	0	0
„ Per The Rev. Gerald Davies:—						
Mr. J. E. Bode -	-	-	-	1	0	0
Rev. E. F. Bowring -	-	-	-	10	0	
Mr. Chance -	-	-	-	5	5	0
Mr. F. K. W. Girdlestone -	-	-	-	10	0	
Mrs. Ewart -	-	-	-	1	1	0
Mr. J. E. Judson -	-	-	-	1	0	0
Mr. J. W. Marshall -	-	-	-	1	0	0
Mr. Leonard Marshall -	-	-	-	1	0	0
Dr. Rendall -	-	-	-	2	0	0
Mrs. Rendall -	-	-	-	2	0	0
Mr. G. Gidley Robertson -	-	-	-	1	1	0
Mr. Struan Robertson -	-	-	-	1	1	0
Rev. W. F. Romanis -	-	-	-	1	0	0
Mr. Raymer Storr -	-	-	-	10	6	
Mrs. Thicknesse -	-	-	-	1	0	0

 £70 10 7

Mr. Murray Marshall and Mr. E. S. Peachey kindly carried out their respective works at cost price. Mr. Thackeray Turner gave the stone

March, 1902.

REPAIR FUND.

Cr.

PAYMENTS				£	s.	d.
By Mr. Beagley	-	-	-	28	4	6½
„ Mr. Murray Marshall	-	-	-	8	13	11
„ Mr. E. S. Peachey	-	-	-	33	3	1
„ Postage	-	-	-	9		0½

£70 10 7

The work has fortunately cost less than was anticipated, and this was due to two causes. One, the retaining walls, owing to their being bulged, were taken as unsound, but considerable lengths of them proved to be in excellent condition. Secondly, the work was done without a contract, and all concerned did the work at the lowest possible figure.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1901.

Dr.

Cr.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance at the 31st December, 1900, as per last statement	55 18 8	By Payments during the year 1901:—	
„ Receipts during the year 1901:—		Printing	21 11 1
Annual Subscriptions	285 15 6	Office Expenses, including Secretary's Travelling Expenses	33 5 10½
Donations	8 14 0	Members' Travelling Expenses	10 6 3
Received for Travelling Expenses in visiting Churches and Sale of Reports	12 9 2	Secretary's Salary	120 0 0
	306 18 8	Clerk's Salary	78 0 0
		Rent of Office	21 0 0
			284 3 2½
		„ Cash at London City and Midland Bank, 31st December, 1901	76 5 0
		„ Cash at Office	2 9 1½
			78 14 1½
			£362 17 4

Examined and compared with books and vouchers and found correct,

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Auditor.

23rd April, 1902.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION. £1 1s. or 10s. 6d.

Subscriptions to be sent to the Secretary, THACKERAY TURNER,
10, Buckingham Street, Adelphi.

Post Office Orders should be made payable at the General Post Office. Cheques should be crossed "London City and Midland Bank."

Bankers:—London City and Midland Bank, Limited, 449, Strand, W.C.

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- *Hon. Richard C. Grosvenor, *The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants,*
(Hon. Secretary.)
- Hon. Ivor C. Guest, M.P., *Wimborne House, 22, Arlington*
Street, Piccadilly.
- Leonard Guthrie, M.D., 15, *Upper Berkeley Street, Portman Square,*
W.
- W. Matthew Hale, *Claverton, Stoke Bishop, near Bristol.*
- Professor Hales, F.S.A., 1, *Oppidans Road, Primrose Hill.*
- A. Hall, *St. George's Chambers, Grey Friars, Leicester.*
- Charles E. Hallé, *The Avenue, 76, Fulham Road.*
- Alderman Thomas Hampton, *Walton, Stone, Staffs.*
- Thomas Hardy, *Max Gate Dorchester.*
- W. H. Heath, *Thingdon Cottage, Longbridge, Northfield, near*
Birmingham.
- *John Hebb, *Primrose Club, Park Place, St. James's.*
- George M. Henton, *Charnwood House, Victoria Road, Leicester.*
- Mrs. Herringham, 40, *Wimpole Street, W.*
- *J. P. Heseltine, 196, *Queen's Gate, S.W.*
- Gerald G. P. Heywood, *Doveleys, Utho, Wiltshire.*
- G. A. Hight, *Bijapur, Bombay.*
- Arthur G. Hill, F.S.A., 84, *Adelaide Road, N.W.*
- Miss Octavia, Hill, 190, *Marylebone Road, N.W.* (Hon. Mem.)
- James Hilton, F.S.A., 60, *Montagu Square, Hyde Park, W.*
- Laurence W. Hodson, *Compton Hall, Wolverhampton.*
- Henry Holiday, *Oak Tree House, Hampstead.*
- *James R. Holdiday, 101, *Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham*
Mrs. Hollins.
- J. R. Hollond, *Wonham, Bampton, Devonshire.*
- Miss Hope, 10, *The Circus, Bath.*
- Wynnard Hooper, 13, *Summer Place, South Kensington.*
- P. Morley Horder, 118, *Bond Street, W.*
- Leonard Horner, 9, *South Parade, Bedford Park, W.*
- Mrs. Hubbard, *Bradenham Lodge, Holmesdale Road, Kew.*
- F. Madox Hueffer, *The Bungalow, Winchelsea, near Rye, Sussex.*

- Arthur Hughes, *Eastside House, Kew Green.*
- *W. Holman Hunt, *Draycott Lodge, Fulham.*
Edward Hutchinson, *The Elms, Darlington.*
- *George Jack, 24, *Station Road, Church End, Finchley.*
Miss Eleanor Jacob, *Crane Lodge, Salisbury.*
M. R. James, Litt. D., *King's College, Cambridge.*
Rev. Sydney James, *Malvern College, Malvern.*
George Jeffery, *Larnaca, Cyprus.*
Miss L. A. Jenner, 39, *Addison Road, Kensington.*
Rev. Canon Jessopp, D.D., *Scarning Rectory, East Dereham.*
E. Peter Jones, *The House by the Church, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.*
Henry Arthur Jones, *Townsend House, Regent's Park, N.W.*
- *H. C. Kay, 11, *Durham Villas, Kensington, W.*
S. H. Keeling, *Wynyate, Woodbourne Road, Edgbaston Birmingham*
Major Keith, *India.*
- *James Kennedy, 25, *Bedford Row, W.C.*
- *Rt. Hon. William Kenrick, *The Grove, Harborne, Birmingham.*
- *S. Wayland Kershaw, F.S.A., *The Library, Lambeth Palace.*
Sydney D. Kitson, 190, *Chapelstown Road, Leeds.*
Mrs. Lamb, *Borden Wood, Liphook.*
Prof. E. Ray Lankester, *Savile Club, 107, Piccadilly, W.*
Miss G. F. Larner, 32, *Heath Street, Hampstead.*
Ernest Law, *Hampton Court Palace.*
Lady Lawson, *Brayton, Cumberland.*
- *Charles G. Leland.
Rev. Canon Lester, *Everton, Liverpool.*
- *W. R. Lethaby, 111, *Inverness Terrace, W.*
Lady Lewis, 88, *Portland Place, Regent's Park.*
Rafe O. Leycester, 6, *Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, and Toft Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire.*
- A. L. Liberty, *The Manor House, Lee, near Great Missenden Bucks.*
Hon. E. R. Lindsay, 2, *Cavendish Square, W.*
R. B. Litchfield, 31, *Kensington Square, W.*
C. S. Loch, *Drylaw Hatch, Oxshott, Surrey.*
Oliver Lodge, Jun., *Mariemont, Birmingham.*
H. Longden, 447, *Oxford Street, W.*

G. B. Longstaff, M.D., L.C.C., *Highlands, Putney Heath, S.W., and Morthoe, Ilfracombe, N. Devon.*

L. W. Longstaff, *Ridgelands, Wimbledon.*

The Countess of Lovelace, *Ockham Park, Ripley, Surrey.*

Joseph W. Lovibond, *Lake House, near Salisbury.*

Henry Lucas, 46, *Gloucester Square, Hyde Park.*

Sir Godfrey Lushington, K.C.B., 34, *Old Queen Street, Westminster.*

*Vernon Lushington, K.C., 36, *Kensington Square, W.*

H. E. Luxmoore, *Eton College, Windsor.*

Hon. Neville S. Lytton, *Rake Mill, Milford, near Godalming*

Mervyn Macartney, 52A, *Berkeley Square, W.*

*Norman Maccoll, 4, *Notting Hill Square, W.*

Montague J. Muir Mackenzie, 21, *Hyde Park Gate, S.W.*

George A. Macmillan, 19, *Earl's Terrace, Kensington, W.*

Mrs. Henry Makins, 180, *Queen's Gate, S.W.*

*Rev. Newton Mant, F.S.A., *The Vicarage, Hendon, N.W.*

H. C. Marillier, *Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, Hammersmith, W.*

*Alfred Marks, 155, *Adelaide Road, Regent's Park, N.W.*

Rev. W. Marshall, *Ewhurst Rectory, Hawkhurst.*

T. Mather, 12, *Drury Lane, Liverpool.*

The Viscount Melville, *Melville Castle, Midlothian.*

Jno. Henry Metcalfe, *Uppleby, Easingwold, Yorks.*

Thomas Middlemore, *Melsetter, Orkney, N.B.*

Robert Miller.

F. D. Millet, *The Abbot's Grange, Broadway, Worcestershire.*

Robert M. Mills, *Bourne, Lincolnshire.*

Miss Milne, *The Trees, Church Road, Upper Norwood.*

Miss Henrietta A. Milne, *The Trees, Church Road, Upper Norwood.*

E. E. Minton, *Bank, Bury, Lancashire.*

F. D. Mocatta, F.S.A., 9, *Connaught Place, W.*

C. H. Monro, *Hadley, Barnet, Herts.*

Edward R. P. Moon, M.P., 6, *Onslow Gardens, S.W.*

R. O. Moon, M.D., 50, *Green Street, Park Lane, W.*

J. A. Moran, 149, *Strand, W.C.*

Mrs. William Morris, *Kelmscott Manor, Lechlade.*

Miss Morris, *Kelmscott Manor, Lechlade.*

- Miss May Morris, 8, *Hammersmith Terrace, W.*
Walter Morrison, 77, *Cromwell Road, S.W.*
A. J. Munby, F.S.A., 6, *Fig Tree Court, Temple.*
Lord Muncaster, *Muncaster, Ravenglass, Cumberland.*
*A. H. Hallam Murray, F.S.A., 50A, *Albemarle Street, W.*
C. Fairfax Murray, *The Grange, 111, North End Road, West Kensington, W.*
Ralph Nevill, *St. James's Club, Piccadilly, W.*
Edmund H. New, *Green Hill, Evesham.*
Ernest Newton, 4, *Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, W.C.*
Miss C. M. Nichols, R.P.E., 61, *Carlton Terrace, Surrey Road, Norwich.*
W. Niven, *Marlow Place, Great Marlow.*
John H. B. Noble, *Fesmond Dene House, Newcastle-on-Tyne.*
*Philip Norman, F.S.A., 45, *Evelyn Gardens, South Kensington, S.W.*
Charles Normand, 98, *Rue de Miromenil, Paris.* (Hon. Mem.)
*Rev. T. W. Norwood, F.G.S., *Wrenbury Vicarage, Nantwich.*
Prince Odescalchi, *Rome.* (Hon. Mem.)
Professor D. Oliver, 10, *Kew Gardens Road, Kew.*
R. R. B. Orlebar, *Hinwick, Wellingborough.*
Mrs. Painter, 8, *Hamilton Terrace, St. John's Wood, N.W.*
*C. Kegan Paul, *Paternoster House, Charing Cross Road, W.C.*
Miss Mary Payne-Smith, *Fesmond Cottage, Headington, near Oxford.*
Frank S. Pearson, *The Ivy House, Solly Hill, Birmingham.*
Rev. Samuel Pearson, *The Manse, Lightcliffe, near Halifax.*
Harold Peirce, 331, *Walnut Street, Philadelphia, U.S.A.*
H. F. Pelham, 8, *Bradmore Road, Oxford.*
Rev. T. Perkins, *Turnworth Rectory, Blandford, Dorset.*
H. A. Peto, *Goodnestone Park, Dover.*
H. Phipps, c/o Brown, Shipley & Co., *Founder's Court, E.C.*
G. T. Pilcher, 29, *Dawson Place, W.*
H. G. Plimmer, M.R.C.S., 28, *St. John's Wood Road, N.W.*
Lieut.-Colonel Pollard-Urquhart, *Castle Pollard, Co. Westmeath, and Craigstone Castle, Turriff, Aberdeenshire.*
J. H. Pollen, 11, *Pembroke Crescent, W.*
Hon. Gerald Ponsonby, 2, *Stratford Place, W.*
A. H. Powell, *Sapperton, nr. Cirencester.*

- Charles M. Powell, *Eastfield, Caversham, Reading.*
 J. C. Powell, *Uppingham, Rutland.*
 Malcolm C. Powell, *Bedales School, Petersfield.*
 Miss Powell, *Long Wall, Walton-on-Thames.*
 Miss Theodora Powell, *West Mount, Guildford.*
 Ambrose M. Poynter, *148A, Sloane Street, S.W.*
 Cormell Price, *Minster Lovell, Witney.*
 John E. Pritchard, *F.S.A., 8, Cold Harbour Road, Redland, Bristol.*
 *Robert Proctor, *Oxshott, near Leatherhead.*
 A. L. Radford, *The Cedar House, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex.*
 George Rae, *Devonshire Road, Birkenhead.*
 W. G. Rawlinson, *Hill Lodge, Campden Hill Square, W.*
 *Essex E. Reade, *24, Bolton Street, Piccadilly, W. (Hon. Secretary.)*
 Mrs. Essex Reade, *24, Bolton Street, Piccadilly, W.*
 George Reid, *Dunfermline, N.B.*
 S. E. Spring Rice, *1, Bryanston Place, W.*
 *John Richmond, *22, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.*
 *Sir W. B. Richmond, *K.C.B., R.A., Beaver Lodge, Hammersmith.*
 Walter C. Richmond.
 Mrs. Robb, *46, Rutland Gate, S.W.*
 Dr. Lloyd Roberts, *23, St. John's Street, Manchester.*
 W. Graham Robertson, *28, Rutland Gate, S.W.*
 Sir J. C. Robinson, *F.S.A., 107, Harley Street, W.*
 Vincent J. Robinson, *F.S.A., Parnham, near Beaminster, Dorset.*
 E. F. Robson, *Grosvenor Club, Bond Street, W.*
 W. A. Rollason, *The White House, Truro, Cornwall.*
 T. M. Rooke, *7, Queen Anne's Gardens, Bedford Park, Chiswick.*
 Charles Rowley, *Handforth, Cheshire.*
 F. G. Rücker, *New Court, Temple.*
 The Lady Margaret Sackville, *25, Chesham Street, S.W.*
 J. E. Sandys, *Litt.D., Merton House, Cambridge.*
 Frank Sanguinetti, *Ealing Dean, W.*
 F. Scorer, *Kent Hatch, Edenbridge.*
 T. Myddelton Shallcross, *6, Dale Street, Liverpool.*
 Mrs. G. Bernard Shaw, *10, Adelphi Terrace, W.C.*
 *Walter K. Shirley, *6, Delahay Street, Westminster, S.W.*
 Mrs. Walter Sickert.

M. E. S.

Richard Sisley, M.D., *Ockford House, Godalming.*

John H. Skilbeck, 6, *Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.*

Miss Leigh Smith, *Campagne Montfeld, Mustapha Supérieur, Algeria.*

H. Llewellyn Smith, 49, *St. George's Square, S.W.*

H. C. Sorby, LL.D., *Broomfield, Sheffield.*

Joseph E. Southall, 13, *Charlotte Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.*

Charles J. E. Sparke, *Bury St. Edmunds.*

B. T. Stallybrass, *Sandy Knowe, Wallasey, near Liverpool.*

Sir Harry Stapley, Bart., 15, *Albion Street, Hyde Park, W.*

Miss F. J. Staveley, 6, *Onslow Avenue, Richmond, S.W.*

Robert Steele, *Chemical Society, Burlington House, W.*

*Leslie Stephen, 13, *Hyde Park Gate South, W.*

Miss Frances Sterling, 18, *Sheffield Terrace, Kensington.*

Ashby Sterry, *St. Martin's Chambers, Trafalgar Square.*

Miss E. C. Stevenson, 13, *Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh.*

*J. J. Stevenson, F.S.A., 4, *Porchester Gardens, W.*

Mrs. Charles Stewart, 38, *Eaton Place, S.W.*

J. P. Stilwell, *Hilfield, Yateley, Hants.*

Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Bart., M.P., 48, *Belgrave Square, S.W.*

Mrs. James Stuart, 24, *Grosvenor Road, S.W., and Carrow Abbey,*

Norwich.

W. A. Sugden, 25, *Victoria Terrace, Keighley.*

James S. Sullivan, *Onslow, Darlaston Road, Wimbledon.*

Mrs. G. T. Talbot, *Tyn-y-ffynon, Barmouth, N. Wales.*

H. Ogle Tarbolton.

Miss Helen Taylor, *Avignon, France.*

Rev. T. F. Thistleton-Dyer, *Bayfield, Holt, Norfolk.*

H. R. Thorpe, 5, *Lenton Avenue, Nottingham.*

Mrs. Roby Thorpe, *The Park, Nottingham.*

Hamo Thornycroft, R.A., *Moreton House, Melbury Road, W.*

Mrs. Charles R. Thursby, *Harleston, Northampton.*

H. T. Timmins, "*The Haven*," *Harrow-on-the-Hill.*

Miss Townsend, *The Close, Salisbury.*

Miss Townshend, *Campden House Chambers, Sheffield Terrace*

Kensington, W.

G. G. T. Treherne, 26, *Brunswick Gardens, Campden Hill, W.*

- Mrs. Alexander Trotter, *Thamescote, Chiswick Mall, W.*
 Sydney Tugwell,
G. I. F. Tupper, The Cottage, 28, Park Hill, Clapham.
 Miss S. A. Turle.
 Rev. G. F. T. Turner, *Coveney Rectory, Ely.*
 Rev. J. R. Turner, *Wroughton Rectory, Swindon.*
 Mrs. Thackeray Turner, *Westbrook, Godalming.*
 Mrs. Fisher Unwin, *10, Hereford Square, South Kensington, S.W.*
 W. H. Urwick, *34, Great Tower Street, E.C.*
 Rev. Sydney Vatcher, *St. Philip's Vicarage, London Hospital, Stepney, E.*
 E. L. Vaughan, *Eton College, Windsor.*
 Rev. Hamilton Stewart Verschoyle, *Courmayeur, Val d'Aosta, Italy.*
 Allan F. Vigers, *7, South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C.*
 *Emery Walker, *F.S.A., 3, Hammersmith Terrace, W.*
 F. S. Waller, *17, College Green, Gloucester.*
 F. W. Waller, Jun., *17, College Green, Gloucester.*
 William Ward, *2, Church Terrace, Richmond, Surrey.*
 *G. Y. Wardle, *Bellevue, Harbledown, Canterbury.*
 *Sir Thomas Wardle, *St. Edward Street, Leek.*
 Mrs. G. C. W. Warr, *16, Earl's Terrace, Kensington, W.*
 E. P. Warren, *F.S.A., 20, Cowley Street, Westminster.*
 Alfred Watkins, *Hampton Park, Hereford.*
 Guthrie F. Watson, *5A, New Burlington Street, W.*
 G. F. Watts, *R.A., Little Holland House, Melbury Road, Kensington.*
 James Watts, *Abney Hall, Cheddle, Cheshire.*
 H. S. Webb, *Beechwood, Winchester.*
 *Philip Webb, *Caxtons, Worth, by Crawley, Sussex.*
 Rev. Prebendary Webb, *Chichester.*
 *William Weir, *40, Whittington Road, Bowes Park, N.*
 Mrs. Gerald Wellesley, *33, Portman Square, W.*
 A. Randall Wells, *25, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings.*
 J. R. E. West.
 Denham Westmacott, *1, Whitehall Place, S.W.*
 His Excellency Baron Whettnall, *18, Harrington Gardens, South Kensington.*
 *F. A. White, *72, Fenchurch Street, E.C.*

- W. Hale White, *Lordswell Lane, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells.*
James Whitfield, *Forest Road, Moseley, Birmingham.*
Rev. R. Y. Whytehead, *Campsall Vicarage, Doncaster.*
Arthur Wightman, *Bank Chambers, George Street, Sheffield.*
James Williams, *Gomshall, Surrey.*
Miss Williams, 4, *Vicarage Gate, Kensington, W.*
G. C. Williamson, Litt.D., *The Mount, Guildford.*
Mrs. Wills, 28, *Lower Seymour Street, Portman Square, W.*
Arthur Wilson, 30, *Ashbourne Road, Derby.*
Thomas T. Wing, *Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey.*
Mrs. Winkworth, *Holly Lodge, Campden Hill, W.*
*Charles C. Winmill, *Grasmere, Warren Road, Bexley Heath, Kent.*
Mrs. Charles C. Winmill, *Grasmere, Warren Road, Bexley Heath, Kent.*
*A. Stuart-Wortley
R. G. K. Wrench, *Kingsgate Street, Winchester.*
Rev. C. H. Wright, *Keston Rectory, Kent.*
The Hon. Sir. R. S. Wright, *Headley Park, Liphook, Hampshire.*
A. G. Wyand.
Rev. C. F. Wyatt, *Broughton Rectory, Banbury.*
*Hon. Percy Wyndham, 45, *Belgrave Square, S.W.*
Stewart Young, 20, *Montagu Square, W.*
Mrs. Stewart Young, 20, *Montagu Square, W.*
Miss Harriott Yorke, 190, *Marylebone Road, N.W.*
J. R. Yorke, 2, *Chesham Street, W.*
Count Zorzi, *Venice.* (Hon. Mem.)

If any Member finds his or her name incorrectly given, the Secretary will be obliged by the error being pointed out to him.

Obituary.

The Society regrets the loss by death of the following Members :—

J. F. Bentley.
Anthony Brown.
Daniel C. A. Cave.
Rev. Whitwell Elwin.
Rev. W. Hutchinson.
Thomas Micklem.
J. Shand.
Larner Sugden, F.R.I.B.A.
Rev. J. J. C. Valpy.